A Hand Book of

FINGER PRINTS

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A HAND-BOOK

ON

FINGER-PRINTS

BY

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

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PREFACE

Excellent results have been obtained in recent years in the detection of crime in Madras State, through identification of finger-prints at scenes of crime. The immense potentialities of this scientific method of detection have been practically demonstrated in Madras City and in many of the districts of Madras State.

It is important that every police officer should be equipped with comprehensive knowledge of the subject of finger-prints, so that there is an even wider and more fruitful utilization of this knowledge.

The publication of this " Handbook on Finger-Prints " compiled by Sri N. Krishnaswamy, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, Madras City, is therefore, both welcome and timely. The author has explained all aspects of the subject in this handbook, in very simple language. He has shorn the subject of all technical language, and illustrated every application of finger-print science, with facts of actual cases from his personal experience.

It is my earnest hope that all police officers will study and benefit by this handbook, and further extend on the gains already achieved in utilization of the finger-print science in police work.

S. BALAKRISHNA SHETTY,
Inspector-General of Police.

MADRAS,
Dated 1st *June* 1961.

HAND-BOOK ON FINGER-PRINTS

Introduction.

The subject of finger-prints is so important in the investigation of crime, that it is very necessary that every police officer should have a good working knowledge of the subject. Some police officers mistakenly think this is a subject for experts, when really, it should form an intimate part of every police officer's professional knowledge. It should be the duty of all superior police officers to bring the principles and practices of this subject, well within the clear understanding of police officers of all ranks under them.

Brief History.

Many are under the impression that " Finger-Prints " is a Western Science. This impression is not altogether correct. That finger-prints could be used to establish identity is a fact that was widely known and used in ancient China and India. The Chinese Law Book of Yung-Hwuri written in the 7th Century A.D. states in its Chapter on divorce that divorce documents should be authenticated by the husband's finger-prints in case he is unable to affix his signature !

Most of the Western Scientists with whom the discovery of finger-prints and its uses is associated, commenced their studies on this subject in the East, in countries where Finger-prints were in use as a mark of identity. Dr. Henry Faulds commenced his work in Japan; Sir William Herschel was a Collector and Sir Edward Henry was an Inspector-General of Police in Bengal. To these persons may go the credit not for the discovery of finger-prints as a means of identification but for the discovery of methods of classification of finger-prints, and the use of finger-prints for identification of criminals and for detection of crime. Dr. Henry Faulds used finger-prints found at two scenes of crime to establish the identity of the offenders, according to a letter he wrote in 1880. A system of

recording and classifying finger-prints devised by Sir Francis Galton, was officially introduced in England in 1895. It will be surprising to many to know that this system was introduced the same year in Madras also, through the efforts of the Inspector in charge of the C.I.D.; his name was E. A. Subramanya Iyer.

The following extracts from letter No. 6022, dated 13th December 1904 from Mr. W.O. Horne, Inspector-General of Police, Madras, to the Government of Madras, makes interesting reading. Mr. Horne writes, " I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government the very serious hindrance and delay which is caused by the frequent summonses from the courts for the Inspector in charge of my Criminal Investigation Department, to give expert evidence in courts all over the Presidency. In the course of last week he received three such summonses. I invariably ask the courts to issue a commission to the Chief Presidency Magistrate to examine him, instead of requiring his attendance in the mofussil, but they by no means always agree, and lately the Sessions Judge of South Arcot commented on my request in exceedingly severe terms. The system of criminal identification by finger-prints was started in the Police in 1895 . . . Courts commenced to summon the Inspector as an expert witness in 1898, in which year only three summonses were received, and in 1902 he was summoned not less than 12 times . . . . "

Moving that the fee of Rs. 50 per day collected from private parties for the services of the Finger-Print Expert, should be paid to him and not credited to Government as required by G.O. No. 718, Judicial, dated 3rd August 1905, Inspector E. A. Subramanya Iyer wrote as follows in an office note, dated 23rd May 1905 to the Inspector-General of Police " When the anthropometric system was first introduced, it was at first decided to have anthropometric measurements alone. Finger-prints were added only at my suggestion, and in the study of the finger-print system I had no sort of help from the office. I had to purchase Prof. Galton's books on finger-prints at my own cost, and study the subject myself. In plain I acquired my knowledge long before I was appointed in the Anthropometric Department . . . . , "

Pioneering work in this field was done in Bengal. Sir Edward Richard Henry published his book "Classification and Uses of Finger-Prints" in 1900. All the data of the system outlined in this book were collected in Bengal where he was Inspector-General of Police. Indeed a claim has been made from Bihar that the basic ideas of his system were formulated by a Sub-Inspector of Police by name Azizul Huq who had assisted Sir Henry and done most of the spade work on the subject.

Basic principles of the Finger-print Science.

There are four basic facts about finger-prints that must at the outset fix themselves deeply in our minds and on these facts rest the whole science of finger-prints. They are:—

(*a*) No two fingers of the same person or any other person have an identical finger-print.

(*b*) The finger-print pattern of an individual remains unchanged from birth to death.

(*c*) There are a large number of fine details in a finger-print as seen in figure 1, which will vary from one print to another, and which determine identity, two finger-prints showing identical details in the same relative position, can be conclusively stated to be the finger-prints of the same finger of the same person.

(*d*) An individual touching any object must invariably leave a finger-print on it, and methods have been found for developing, observing and establishing the individual's identity through that finger-print.

These four facts mean, that if you get a criminal's finger-prints either directly from him, or from objects handled by him, at a scene of crime, you can conclusively establish his identity or his complicity in the crime by comparison of these with his finger-prints if they happen to be already on record.

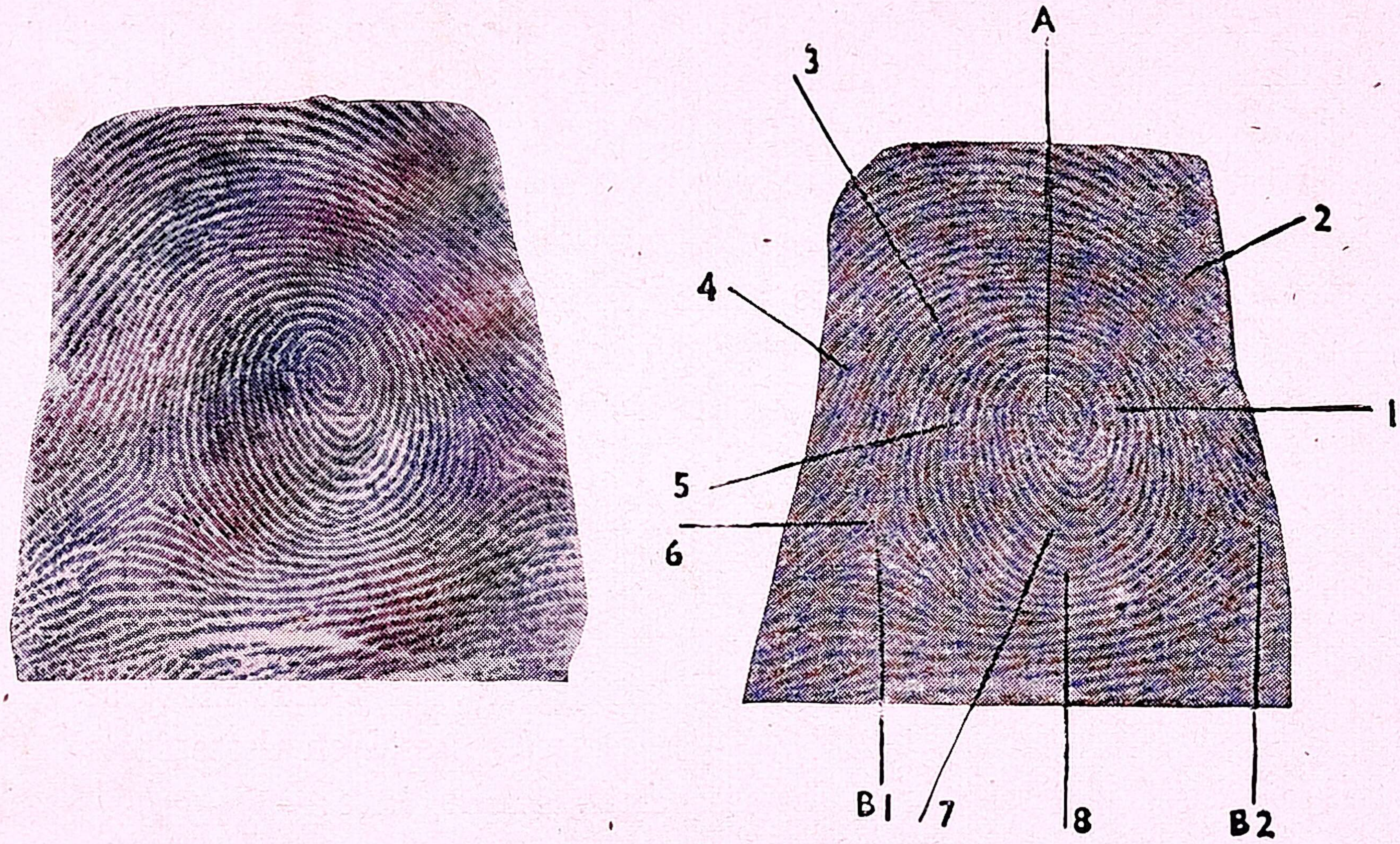


Fig. 1.

Enlarged finger print showing fixed points and identity data.

FIXED POINTS.

A. Core (tip of the first recurving ridge); B-1. Delta (bifurcation of a single ridge); B-2. Delta (divergence of two ridges).

POINTS OF IDENTITY.

(1) Downward bifurcation; (2) Enclosure; (3) Short ridge; (4) Independent ridge; (5) Upward termination; (6) Island (dot); (7) Upward bifurcation; (8) Downward termination.

So the very first requisite of a system of finger-prints for the identification of criminals and checking their complicity in a crime, is a record of the finger-prints of all known criminals.

RECORD OF FINGER-PRINTS IN THE FINGER-PRINT BUREAU, VELLORE.

Such a record of the finger-prints of all known criminals of Madras State exists in the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, which was originally started at Madras in 1895 and shifted to Vellore in 1942. A similar Bureau for the whole of India—the Central Finger-Print Bureau—has been recently opened in Calcutta. What orders regulate the building up of the records in these two Bureaux? We can readily see that we do not require the finger-prints on record of every person convicted under every law. We need to record the finger-prints of only professional

criminals and individuals from whom there may be future danger to the country, to life and to property. Police Standing Order 837—Vide Annexure I—lists out 20 categories of offences, and requires the recording in the Central Finger-Print Bureau, Calcutta, and the State Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, of finger-prints of persons convicted for any of these offences irrespective of whether they are adults or juveniles, male or female. One more requirement is that when a criminal whose finger-prints are on record in the Finger-Print Bureau, of one State, comes to adverse notice in another State, his finger-prints should be put on record in the Finger-Print Bureau of the latter State also.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "RECORD" AND "SEARCH".

Let us before proceeding further, clearly understand the two terms "search" and "record" which we use when we send finger-prints to the Finger-Print Bureau. When we send an arrested person's finger-prints to the Bureau, to ascertain his identity, we do so for "search". When we send a known person's finger-prints with details of his conviction, to the Bureau, we do so for "record" of the same for future reference. We should all be aware of the instructions in Police Standing Order 836 on who should take finger-prints, and how, in Police Standing Order 838, on how to send finger-prints for record, and in Police Standing Order 839 on how to send finger-prints for search. These instructions help both the Station House Officer and the Finger-Print Bureau.

HOW FINGER-PRINTS ARE PLACED ON RECORD AND A COLLECTION BUILT UP.

Police Standing Order 837 makes it compulsory that finger-prints should be sent for record in the Finger-Print Bureau, of every person for every conviction under any of the offences in the 20 categories listed out. The Bureau must have the finger-prints of the latest entrants to the field of crime. It must have information on the latest convictions of the older members of the criminal fraternity. *When a finger-print slip is received for record, it is given a Finger-Print Bureau serial number* and is added to what is called the "Main collection" of the Finger-Print Bureau; if the slip is that of a person with a second conviction, it is added to the Main collection, the slip

received previously on his first conviction being transferred to a collection of out-dated finger-print slips called the " Assembly collection ". Thus the Main collection is kept up-to-date in all respects. It will not only help us to establish the identity of a criminal, but also tell us all his convictions up-to-date. Every Station House Officer must therefore regard it as his religious duty to implicitly comply with Police Standing Order 837, so that the Main collection in the Finger-Print Bureau is complete and up-to-date.

Now, naturally, while the Main collection goes on expanding with the receipt of new slips, the slips of criminals who die, or become too old for crime or who reform themselves must be weeded out at the same time. Police Standing Order 854 regulates this weeding out process. If a person has no more than two convictions within his native district, his finger-print slip will be removed from the Finger-Print Bureau's record if he has no fresh conviction for 10 years from his last release from jail. If he has more than two convictions, or one or more convictions outside his native district, he is obviously a more dangerous criminal, and so in his case, the retention period is 15 years. When he reaches the age of 80 his slip is automatically removed from record. But if he dies earlier, the Finger-Print Bureau will be able to remove his finger-print slip from record only if it is informed about the death. That is why Police Standing Order 851 requires the Station House Officer to report the death of all criminals whose finger-prints are on record in the Finger-Print Bureau. Thus the Finger-Print Bureau goes on accumulating fresh finger-prints and latest information on the one side and goes on discarding the useless finger-prints on the other, and the finger-print collection on record is kept a thoroughly live and effective one. It will be a record of the entire active criminal population of the State which the Bureau serves. All the revevant Police Standing Orders are reproduced in Annexure I.

How a search is made in the Finger-Print Bureau.

Let us now consider what happens when we send a finger-print slip of a person suspected to be a criminal, to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, for search. To-day there are about

3 lakhs of finger-print slips on record in the Bureau. How does the Bureau tell us within a few days whether the finger-prints of the persons are already on record or not—in their language whether our search slip is 'traced' or untraced'. Tracing out an identical slip from out of a collection of three lakhs of such slips seems a colossal task, but this has been made simple, quick and certain by a method of classification of finger-prints devised by Sir Edward Henry.

The Henry System of Ten Digit Classification explained.

What is meant by classification and what is the purpose of classification? Let us take an example. For purposes of disposal, all papers in a Police Office are classified into various categories like bills, papers relating to Pay, papers relating to statistics of crime, etc., and these are dealt with respectively in the Budget Section, the Pay Section, the Crime Section and so on, of the office. Now bills for instance, are divided into various categories like feeding bills, water charge bills, electricity bills, transport charge bills and so on and these may for disposal purposes be divided amongst the five clerks of the Budget Section, feeding bills by one clerk, water charge bills by another and so on. Now if a hotel keeper complains that a feeding charges bill sent in the month of January 1958 has not yet been paid to him, the Office Superintendent goes straight to the feeding bills Clerk in the Budget Section, and picks out the wanted bills from the bundle of feeding bills received by the concerned clerk during January 1958. If the papers in the office were not so classified and distributed for disposal, the Office Superintendent, if he wants to trace the bill, must ask each of the sixty clerks of the office whether he handled the particular bill. So a classification means the division of a large number of objects into small groups, each group containing objects of a similar description, so that if we want to locate a particular object we need only search for it in the group containing objects of a description similar to it.

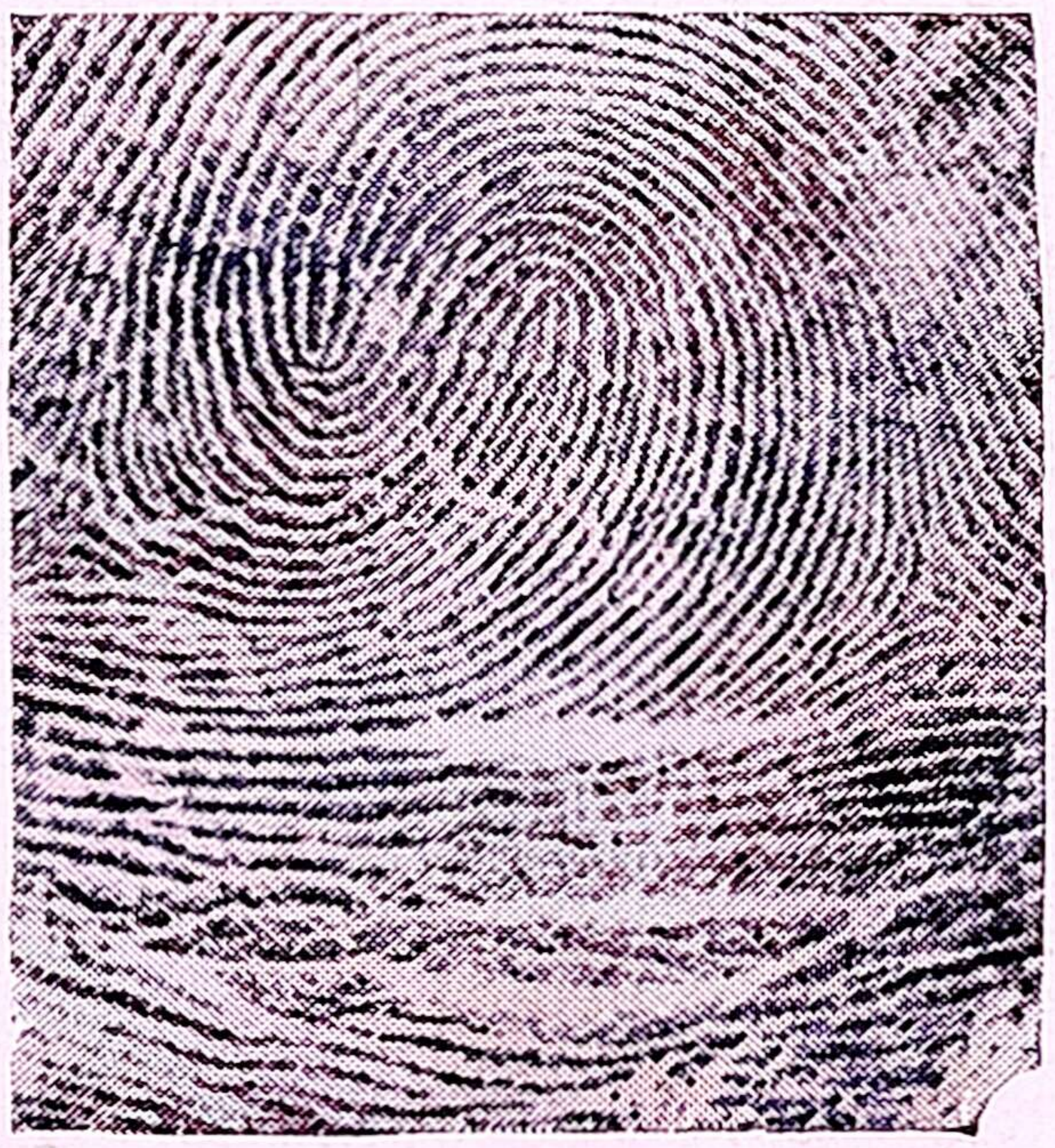
In a similar way, Sir Edward Henry devised a method of classifying finger-print slips on the record of a Finger Print Bureau, so that if we wanted a particular finger-print slip we

need search for it only in a particular bundle of similar though not identical finger-print slips, instead of searching the whole of the Bureau's collection for it. The Henry system of classification is described simply as below:—

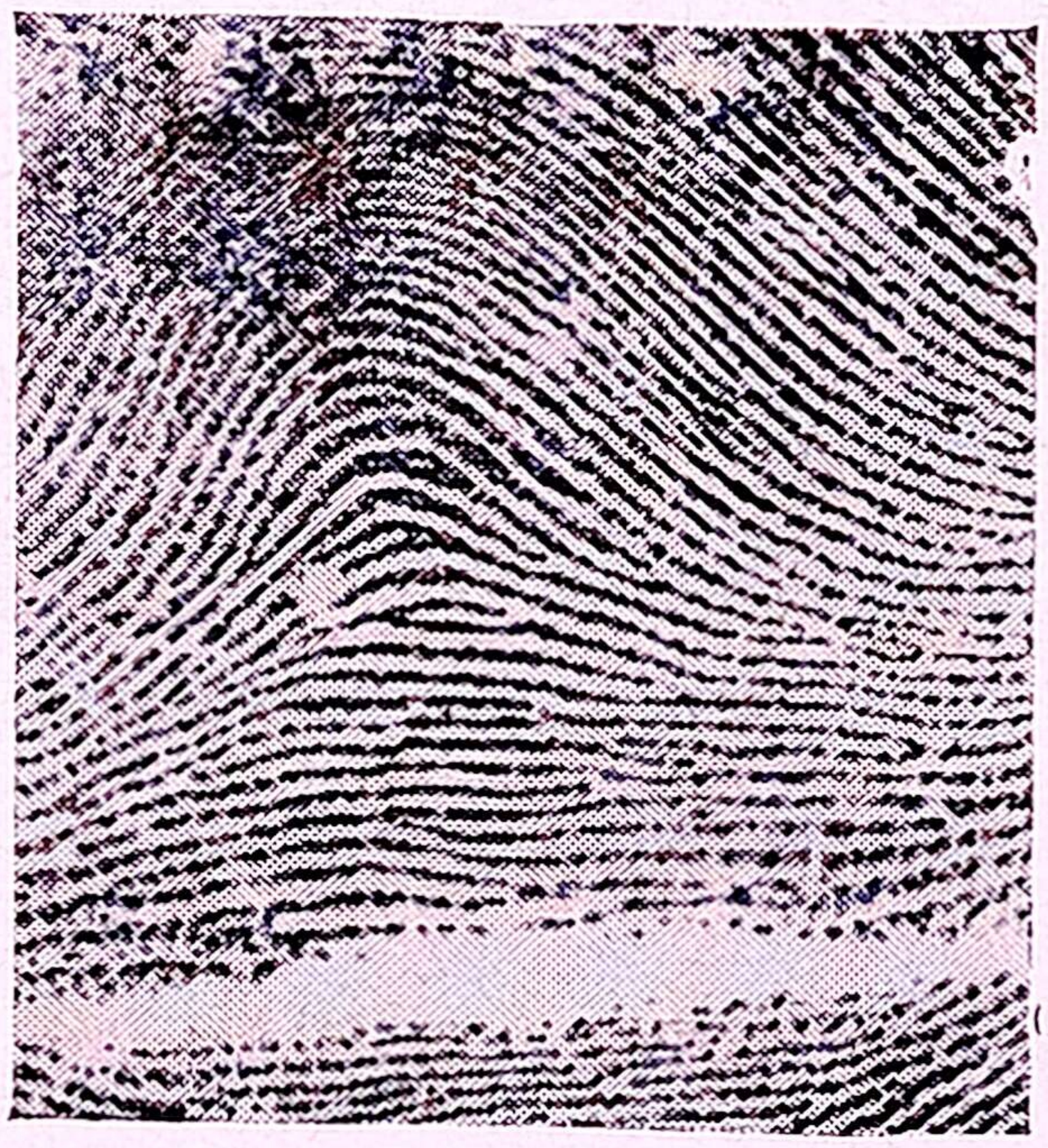
Though no two finger-prints of different fingers are identical in the finger ridge details, all finger-print patterns fall into four broad types (1) Arches, (2) Loops, (3) Whorls and (4) Composites as illustrated in figure 2.

Loop.

Whorl.



Composite.



Arch.

Fig. 2.

The four main types of finger print patterns.

The most common patterns are Loops and Whorls, while Arches and Composites are less common. For the purpose of primary classification Henry includes Arches under Loops and Composites under Whorls. Now the pattern of a single finger, say the Right Thumb, may belong to either the Loop category or the Whorl category. If two fingers, the Right Thumb and Right Forefinger are considered together, four combinations are possible, i.e., Loop-loop Loop-whorl, Whorl-loop and Whorl-Whorl. If three fingers are considered together, the numbers of possible combination is 2 x 2 x 2, i.e., eight combinations. If all the ten fingers are considered, the number of possible combinations is 2^{10}, i.e., 1,024 combinations. Hence any finger-print slip containing the 10 finger impressions will fall into one of 1,024 possible combinations. Now the Finger-Print Bureau has a number of almirahs with a total of 1,024 pigeon holes, each taking in finger-print slips with a particular combination of patterns on the ten fingers of each slip. The 1,024 pigeon holes are in 32 rows each row having 32 pigeon holes.

A simple arithmetical formula has been derived which enables us to readily determine which pigeon hole a particular finger-print slip should go into. This formula is worked out as follows: numerical values are given to the whorl category (i.e., whorls and composites) of patterns occurring on the ten fingers as follows:—

In the Right Thumb and Right Index—16.

In the Right Middle and Right Ring—8.

In the Right Little and Left Thumb—4.

In the Left Index and Left Middle—2.

In the Left Ring and Left Little—1.

The Loop category of patterns (Loops, Arches, etc.) have the numerical value zero. The values of the Right Index, Right Ring, Left Thumb, Left Middle and Left Little fingers are totalled. The values of the remaining five fingers are separately totalled. If the former total is A and the latter total is B, then the finger-print slip will be described by the classification formula $\frac{A+1}{B+1}$

It will now be seen that if all the ten fingers in a slip belong to the whorl category, the formula will be 32|32, and if all the fingers belong to Loop category, the formula will be 1|1. If some fingers are of the Whorl category and some of the Loop category in a finger-print slip, a formula will be got, where the numerator and denominator will each range between 1 and 32, according to the number of whorl category patterns occurring on the ten fingers. We will get 32 combinations where the denominator varies from 1 to 32, for each numerator value varying from 1 to 32, i.e., a total of 32 x 32—1,024 combinations, which is the number of possible combinations that we have already arrived at.

We can thus number the pigeon holes by the formula according to these 1,024 combinations ranging from 1|1 to 32|32. If we want to place a finger-print slip on record, we have merely to work out the arithmetical formula as above, and place the slip on the pigeon hole carrying that number. Likewise if we want to trace a search slip in the recorded collection, we have merely to work out the formula for that slip, and search for a corresponding slip in the pigeon hole carrying the same number. In the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, there is a recorded collection of three lakhs of finger-prints. These are distributed in 1,024 pigeon holes according to their formula, and this means a rough average of 300 slips per pigeon hole. So when a search slip is received our search is straightaway confined to a particular pigeon hole only, containing about 300 slips. And if these 300 slips are sub-classified further, we need only search within a small sub-group in that pigeon hole, and in a matter of minutes, a similar slip can be picked out from the sub-group. Identity is then established by seeing whether the intimate details of ridge characteristics tally in the search slip and record slip. It is very much like picking out the wanted feeding bill from the bundle of feeding bills received in January 1958 in the custody of the feeding bills clerk in the Budget section of the Police office.

How to locate the identity of a Single Finger's Print in the Ten Digit Classified Collection.

Now we must clearly understand that if we want to establish an individual's identity through the records of the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, we must have the ten digit finger-print slip of the individual, because it is only from this that we can ascertain the primary classification, the group, and sub-group, and it is only after ascertaining these, that we can start the search. It will, therefore, be clear that if we have the prints of only one or two fingers of an individual, such as are found for instance, in a scene of crime, a *direct search* cannot be undertaken in the records of the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, to establish his identity. The type of the single finger impression in question may be found in slips in any of the 1,024 pigeon holes, and obviously no search is possible of all the three lakhs of finger-print slips on record. How then can the Finger-Print Bureau help in establishing the identity of the scene of crime prints which are invariably prints of only one or two fingers? The only way in which the Bureau can help, is to compare the scene of Crime prints with finger-print slips of known Modus operandi criminals. So if we want the Finger-Print Bureau to help to identify a scene of crime print, we must send along with it a list of all known *M.O. criminals with their finger-print serial numbers noted against each,* so that the Finger-Print Bureau can pick up the slips bearing these serial numbers immediately from their record for comparison with the scene of crime print.

The Single Digit System of classification of Finger-prints.

This leads us to a new idea. Suppose we classify and record the prints of each finger separately of each M.O. criminal concerned in the types of crime where the finger-prints are generally found at the scenes of crime—house-breakings and house-thefts usually. It should then be possible to identify any scene of crime finger-print if the crime had been committed by one of these M.O. offenders, by each reference to such a classified record. The most common method of classifying and recording single digit prints was one devised in 1930 by Superintendent, Battley of Scotland Yard, and it is his system we follow in the

Single Digit Bureau, Madras. The Single Digit Bureau to-day has on its record the finger-prints of about 3,000 criminals who have come to notice in Madras City, classified under Battley's system. This Bureau has a cabinet with ten drawers, the first containing the classified Right Thumb prints of the 3,000 criminals, the next containing their classified Right Index fingers' prints and so on for all the ten fingers. The collection in each drawer is again divided into groups, sub-groups and smaller and smaller sub-groups, of prints with greater and greater points of similarity, so that the field of search is narrowed down progressively and we need confine our search to only a small number of prints within a small sub-group. It is the same principle again as in locating the feeding bill in the police office.

One point requires to be clarified regarding the use of the single digit collection of finger-prints. Just as we require finger-prints of all the ten fingers of an individual in order to undertake a search in the ten digit collection in the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, so also we require clear and complete print of a single finger in order to undertake a search in the single digit collection in the Single Digit Bureau, Madras. A single digit print is classified and put into group and sub-groups under each primary classification on the basis of (*a*) the type of the pattern, (*b*) the type of the core of the pattern, (*c*) the position of the deltas, (*d*) the position of certain characteristic ridges—recurving ridges, platform ridges, etc., and (*e*) the count of the ridges. If a scene of crime print of a single finger does not contain some of these data, or when these data are not clear, it will not be possible to find out the primary classification, group, sub-group, etc., to which it belongs and hence it will not be possible to make a search in the Single Digit Bureau's collection. In such a case, a search can be made only with reference to the single digit finger prints of a list of specific M.O. criminals or suspects furnished by the investigating officer. Hence all investigating officers must remember that when a scene of crime finger-print print is fragmentary or lacks clarity in some portions and for that reason is declared unfit for direct search in the single digit collection, they should invariably

furnish a list of criminals with whose finger-prints, the fragmentary finger-print may be compared. The procedure is just the same as is adopted when a single finger's print from a crime scene is referred to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, for a similar purpose.

We are now in a position to clearly understand the scope and purpose of the Finger-Print Bureau at Vellore and the Single Digit Bureau at Madras. The finger-print collection in the former is meant to establish identity of a known criminal and to record information on his convictions up-to-date. The finger-print collection in the latter is meant to establish identity of an offender through the scene of crime finger-prints, and thus aid in the detection of crime.

METHODS OF TAKING FINGER-PRINTS.

Two types of finger-prints are usually taken (*a*) Rolled finger-prints and (*b*) Plain finger-prints as illustrated in Fig. 3.

Rolled finger-print.

Plain finger-print.

Fig. 3.

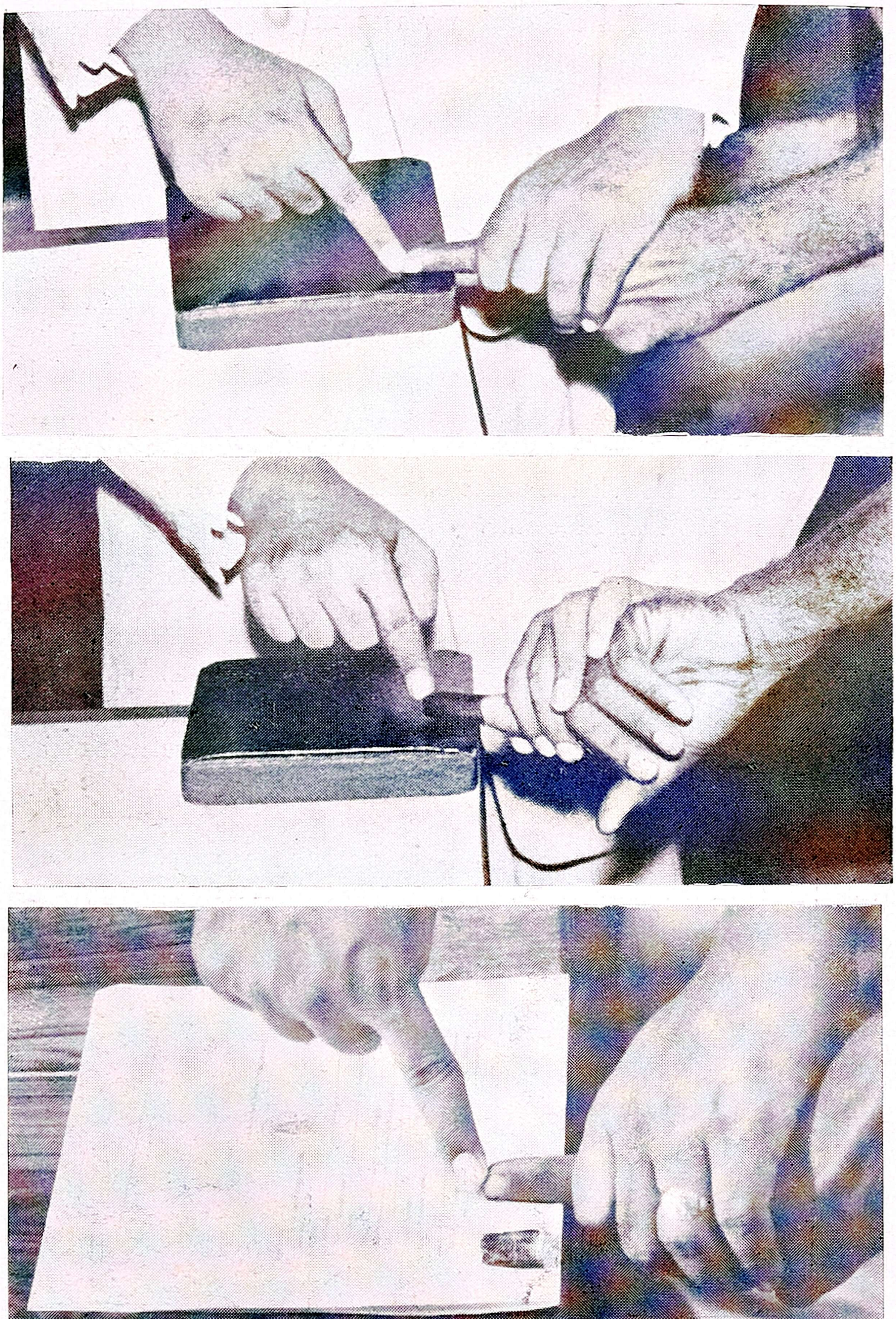


Fig. 4.
(1)—(2)—(3)
How a rolled impression is taken.

A rolled finger-print is an exact reproduction of the ridge pattern of the skin surface of the terminal phalange of the finger. The finger is rolled laterally on an inked plate from one edge of the nail to the other and the same process is repeated on paper. This gives us a rolled finger-print. (*See* Fig. 4.)

A plain finger-print is obtained by placing the bulb of the finger, flat on an inked plate and then impressing the finger lightly on paper without any turning movement. (*See* Fig. 5.)

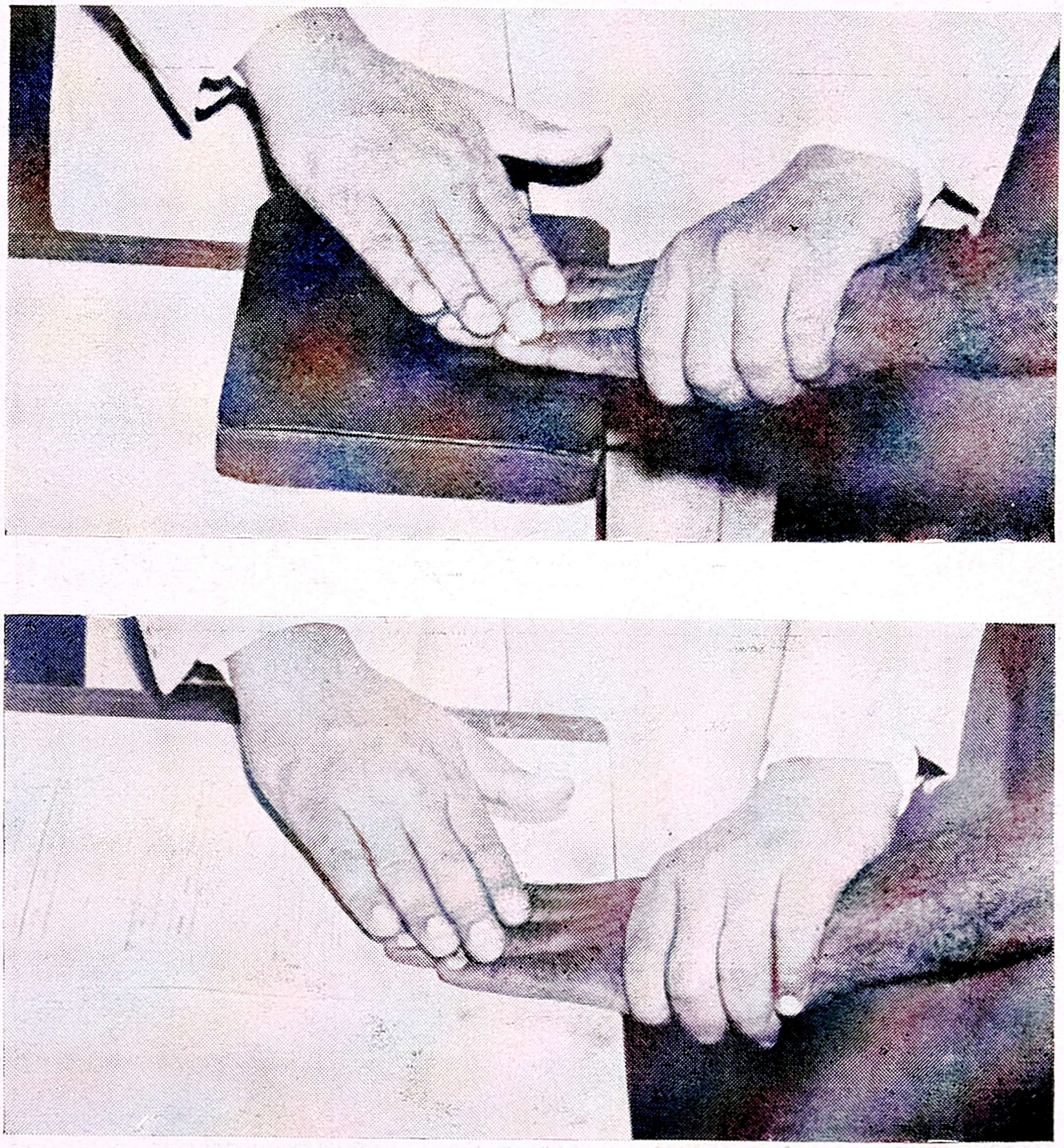


Fig. 5.

(1)–(2)

How a plain impression is taken.

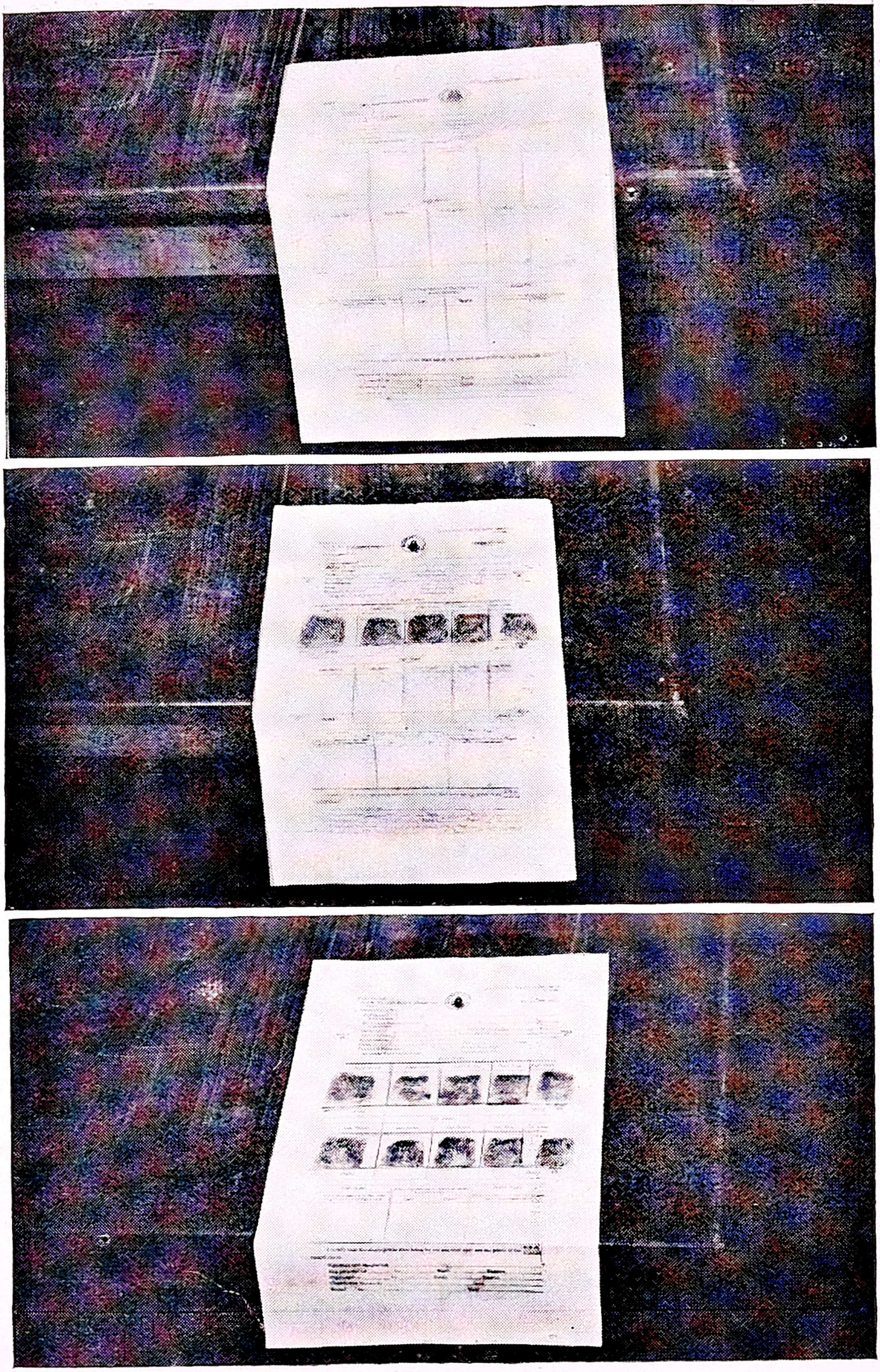


Fig. 6.
(1)—(2)—(3).
How the finger-print slip is positioned for taking finger-prints.

The form prescribed for taking finger-prints for record or for search—vide Annexure II—provides for taking impressions in both the ways mentioned above. (*See* Fig. 6.)

It is essential that the ridge details should be sharp and well defined, because they provide minute data on which classifications both under the **Henry** system and the Battley system are based. The presence and clarity of the core and deltas in a pattern is of particular importance to the Battley system of single digit classification, as without these, such classification is impossible.

APPARATUS.

The materials required for taking finger-prints are as below:—

1. A polished metal or glass plate 4 inches by 12 inches.

2. A roller for spreading the ink evenly in a thin film on the plate. A rubber roller of three to four inches in length and one and a half to two inches in diameter with a firm handle by which it can be rolled will be quite suitable for the purpose.

3. Black printer's ink.

4. A bottle of spirit or benzoline to clean the finger tips of the individual.

5. Smooth white paper for recording the impressions.

6. A table or a stand about four feet high with square edges and a smooth top.

Immediately before the taking of finger-prints the finger tips of the person concerned should be wiped clean with benzoline or spirit to ensure that all traces of perspiration have been removed. If the skin of the fingers is hard and dry they should be well soaked in warm water and wiped dry before the prints are recorded. About six drops of printers ink should be placed on the inking plate, and spread out by repeated rolling with the roller, so that a thin film of ink is formed. The film of ink of such thickness is needed that when the fingers are lightly rolled over the plate and re-rolled on the finger-print form, sharp impressions free from fog are obtained. The finger-printing equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before and after taking finger-prints. Dirty appartus is fatal to satisfactory work.

The following are a few practical hints in regard to avoiding common mistakes and getting good results:—

Excessive inking or inadequate inking of the inking plate are the most common defects. The former leads to smudged finger-prints, while the latter gives a pale indistinct print, and a test performed by the officer who is going to take the finger-prints will readily reveal either of these two defects. Excessive ink can be removed by placing a clean sheet of paper over the plate, and applying the roller over it. The paper when removed will take away the excess ink, and what ink remains on the film can be rolled again. Inadequate ink can be rectified by adding a drop or two of ink and rolling again. With practice correct inking can be easily ensured.

When inking the finger by rolling it on an inked plate, only gentle uniform pressure should be used on the finger, and the rolling should be continuous. Excessive pressure will result in inking of not only the ridges but also the furrows of the skin surface, and the ridge impressions on paper will not be sharp and well defined. Lack of uniform pressure while rolling will result in varying intensity of ink in the finger-print.

When finger-prints are taken, the general rule should be to take rolled impressions unless otherwise specified. The finger print should be rolled from one edge of the nail to the other, so that no important data in the finger-print pattern is missed. The important deltas may sometimes not get recorded when the rolling is inadequate.

When recording a finger-print on the prescribed finger-print slip form, the sequence in which the prints of the ten fingers should be recorded, should be strictly adhered to. The finger-prints of the right hand are recorded in the five top spaces and of the left hand in the five bottom spaces in the form, and the sequence from left to right is always from the thumb to the little finger. A wrong sequence will cause confusion but a safe-guard against this is provided by the recording of the plain impressions of all the fingers of both hands simultaneously at the bottom of the finger-print slip form. Counter check with these will show whether the rolled impressions are in proper sequence, and repetition has been avoided.

It is very important that when a number of persons are to be finger printed, the job is done one by one, the next person being taken up, only after all the particulars have been entered in the finger-print slip, in respect of the previous person. Errors in regard to particulars of identity, etc., are very serious. All police officers must carefully study all the details prescribed in the forms, and also the Police Standing Orders which are reproduced in Annexures I and II, relating to the taking of finger-prints for search and for record.

Finger-prints at the scene of crime.

When we investigate a crime we can get finger-prints from two sources:

(*a*) directly from the person of the suspect; and

(*b*) indirectly from objects which he may have touched. These may be used to establish his identity. When the suspect's identity is established through finger-prints on objects at a

scene of crime, that is clear proof of his complicity in the crime. All this is common knowledge, but there are several questions of detail, the answers to which many do not know. How are finger-prints caused on objects? Where can they be found? How can they be developed and preserved? In what ways can they be used to locate the criminal? As police officers, we must know the answers to all these questions because in these answers lie the methods whereby finger-prints help us to detect crime.

How finger-prints are caused and various types of finger-prints.

Let us take the first question. How are finger-prints caused on object? If we examine the finger's surface we will find the skin having the appearance of a ploughed field in miniature. The raised lines of the skin surface are called ridges and the depressed lines running alongside are called furrows. When this surface of ridges and furrows comes into contact with any smooth surface, it leaves an exact picture of this ridge and furrow pattern on the surface touched, which is what we call a finger-print. Now finger-prints fall into three types as follows:—

(*a*) When the finger touches a soft surface like that of wax, or soap, or a bar of chocolate, the finger's ridges cause furrows and the finger's furrows cause ridges on the surface touched, at the points of contact, and thus leave behind an exact negative picture of the finger's ridge and furrow pattern on the surface touched. We get what is called the *plastic type* of finger-print.

(*b*) When the finger is stained with foreign matter like dust, or face powder, or blood, or ink, and a surface is touched, the foreign matter is transferred from the finger's ridges to the surface touched to form an exact picture of the finger's ridge pattern and we get what is called the *stamped type* of finger-print.

(*c*) Where there is nothing on the finger surface except the normal sweat and the body's dirt and grease, the finger leaves on any surface it touches, what is called the *latent type* of finger-print,

Now plastic and stamped finger-prints can invariably be seen by the naked eye directly and so they can be directly photographed, and the prints thus permanently recorded in photographs. Some stamped impressions, however, such as those made by traces of blood, are very faint and have to be made visible by special methods of developing and can be photographed only when this is done. Latent finger-prints are sometimes visible to the naked eye, either directly or in oblique light, depending upon the type of surface on which they exist. Latent prints have usually to be developed in order to make them visible, for purposes of observation and photography.

Location of finger-prints at scene of crime.

Where, in a scene of crime, can finger-prints of the offender be found ? Where should we look for them ? Let actual instances in Madras City give you the reply to this question. K.D. 2849, Mannar alias Parthasarathy left his finger-prints on the front door bolt of a bungalow in Kilpauk on 16th February 1957 when he forced it open. He opened a steel almirah, took a jewel box out of a drawer and took away the jewels kept in it, leaving his finger-prints in the process, on the handle of the almirah, and on the lid of the jewel box. In a cloth shop in Poonamallee High Road, on the night of 14th January 1958, K.D. 3100, Subramaniam, picked up a betel nut box, and finding it of no value to him threw it away, with his finger-print on it. On 8th November 1957 when H.O. 140|N.A. Alexander Jared was driving a stolen car from Vellore to Madras, he adjusted the rear-view mirror by force of habit—almost an automatic action with every car driver—and left his finger-print on it. When he abandoned the car at Haddows Road in Nungambakkam that night he rubbed off his finger-prints everywhere on the car but clean forgot the rear-view mirror. On the night of 9th May 1958 in a bungalow in Teynampet, while the inmates slept in peace ex-convict Krishnan drank up what was left of the complainant's monthly quota of whiskey and in doing so, left his finger-prints on the whiskey bottle. All these instances thus point to one general rule for the investigating officer.

Look for finger-prints at all points which the offender may have touched from the time of his entry till the time of his exit, particularly the objects that are not in their normal state or position.

But to get the offender's finger-prints at the scene of crime there are certain steps we must take, and certain precautions we must observe. Firstly, we must rush to the scene of crime before anybody disturbs the scene of crime and unwittingly destroys whatever finger-print evidence may exist not to speak of themselves contributing fresh finger-prints to the scene of crime, and giving the experts more elimination work to do. And secondly, we must ensure with the help of an expert, that the finger-print evidence is carefully developed and photographed and that if this is not done at the scene, the articles carrying finger-prints are very carefully packed and sent for this purpose to the Finger-Print Bureau at Vellore or the local Single Digit Bureau.

How finger-prints are developed.

Quite often the finger-print will be directly visible to the naked eye. But where it is not visible, it will have to be developed and made visible. How are latent finger-prints developed? This depends largely upon the nature of the surface which carries the finger-print. If it is a highly polished surface it will contain clear and good finger-prints, which can be developed easily and well. If the surface is a dull but smooth one, it may contain finger-prints which are not so clear, and sometimes more difficult to develop. But whatever be the type of surface, a suitable method applied with a lot of care will be invariably successful in developing a latent print. The general principle involved in developing a latent finger-print is this: The latent print is comprised of sweat, dirt and bodily grease with its salt content, stamped on the object by the ridges of the finger in the same pattern as the ridge pattern of the finger. When a suitable powder or chemical is spread over this latent

print, small quantities of the powder or the chemical adhere to or act on the sweat, salt, dirt and grease. When the excess of the powder or chemical is brushed away, or washed away, there remains only the latent print made visible by adhering particles of powder, or by chemical action having darkened the lines of salt, dirt and grease. The next general principle is that for a dark surface carrying a finger-print, we must use light coloured powder, and for a light surface, a dark powder. This will develop the finger-print in a shade that contrasts with the background, and this will facilitate scrutiny and photography. Where we cannot use a powder, we use a chemical, but the use of chemicals is less frequent. We should not dismiss as impossible the development of finger-prints on some types of objects we may find at scenes of crime which are definitely known to have been handled by the offender. What appears impossible may often be quite possible when special methods are used, and in the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore and the Single Digit Bureau, Madras, there are facilities available for applying a large number of special methods.

The following are the most common methods used for developing latent finger-prints:—

(*a*) *Methods making use of powders.*—Powdering methods should be used only when direct photography of the finger-print is impossible. The idea is to avoid the risk of damage to the finger-print by powdering. But if the finger-print is invisible, powdering will be inevitable, and in such a case, has to be done with the greatest care, with the full realization that this valuable clue to the detection of the case should not be spoilt by careless developing technique.

A suitable powder must first be chosen. Amongst light powders, a mixture of two parts of chalk and one part of mercury, called "Grey powder" and amongst dark powders, powdered graphite, lamp black or charcoal are the most common

and give the best results. The following table provides a fair guide in the choice of the powder:—

Serial number.	*Powder.*	*Nature of surface.*
1.	Grey	Glass, ever-silver, tin, plated goods, etc.
2.	Charcoal	Paper, blotter, etc. Brush not to be used.
3.	Graphite	Enamelware and chinaware.
4.	Aluminium or silver powder.	Polished wood and multi-coloured objects.
5.	Manganese di-oxide ..	Enamelware and white coloured objects.

The presence of the latent print can be located on the object in question by examining all parts of it in direct or in oblique light. The object must be handled in such a way that the handler's finger-prints are not impressed on it and if need be, gloves can be worn. When the latent prints are located on it, the chosen powder should be applied—

(*a*) by blowing it over the surface carrying the finger-print, with an insufflator; and

(*b*) by dipping a camel hair brush in a bottle of the powder and dusting the adhering powder over the finger-print.

The excess powder on the finger-print may then be removed, (*a*) by lightly tapping the surface if it happens to be a sheet of paper, or where tapping is effective, (*b*) by blowing off the excess powder and (*c*) by lightly brushing off the excess powder with a camel hair brush, with the brushing being restricted to the barest minimum and the brushing strokes being in the same direction as the ridge lines. Excessive brushing, or brushing across the ridges will destroy the finger-print.

(*b*) *Methods involving use of vapours.*—A common method used for developing finger-prints on paper card-board or cloth, is the Iodine fuming method. Here the surface bearing the finger-print is exposed to iodine fumes produced by blowing into a special pipe called the Fuming pipe, containing iodine crystals. The iodine fumes act on the finger-print rendering it visible, but the print gets discoloured soon due to the evaporation of iodine deposited on the print. Hence the print should be photographed as soon as it becomes visible. Like iodine vapour, osmic acid vapour is also useful.

(*c*) *Methods using chemical action.*—Latent finger-prints on dull paper surfaces be developed by dipping the paper in a five per cent solution of silver nitrate. This chemical acts on the salt content of the sweat in the finger-print, causing a deposit of silver chloride along the ridges of the latent print. The paper bearing the print is then exposed to bright light for a specified period, and then developed like a regular photo film. This results in the silver chloride deposit getting converted into a black deposit of microscopic particles of silver, and a darkened finger-print pattern becomes visible.

Packing objects which carry finger-prints.

Where finger-prints are not developed and preserved by photography or otherwise, at the scene, they will have to be sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, or the Single Digit Bureau, Madras, for this purpose. The objects will have to be packed carefully so that the finger-prints do not get damaged in transit. It is advisable to send such objects particularly if they are brittle, by a special messenger. The following sketches and hints on packing of some common types of objects carrying finger-prints will be useful, vide schedule.

Candle.

Take two pieces of wood about three inches square and about one inch thick. Cut a hole of the same diameter as the candle about half an inch deep in the centre of each piece of wood. Place one end of the candle in one of these cavities and the other end of the candle in the other, and then screw (not nail) the pieces of wood to a base board as shown in the illustration. The base board may then be screwed (not nailed) to the inside bottom of a wooden box. Vide Fig. 7 below.

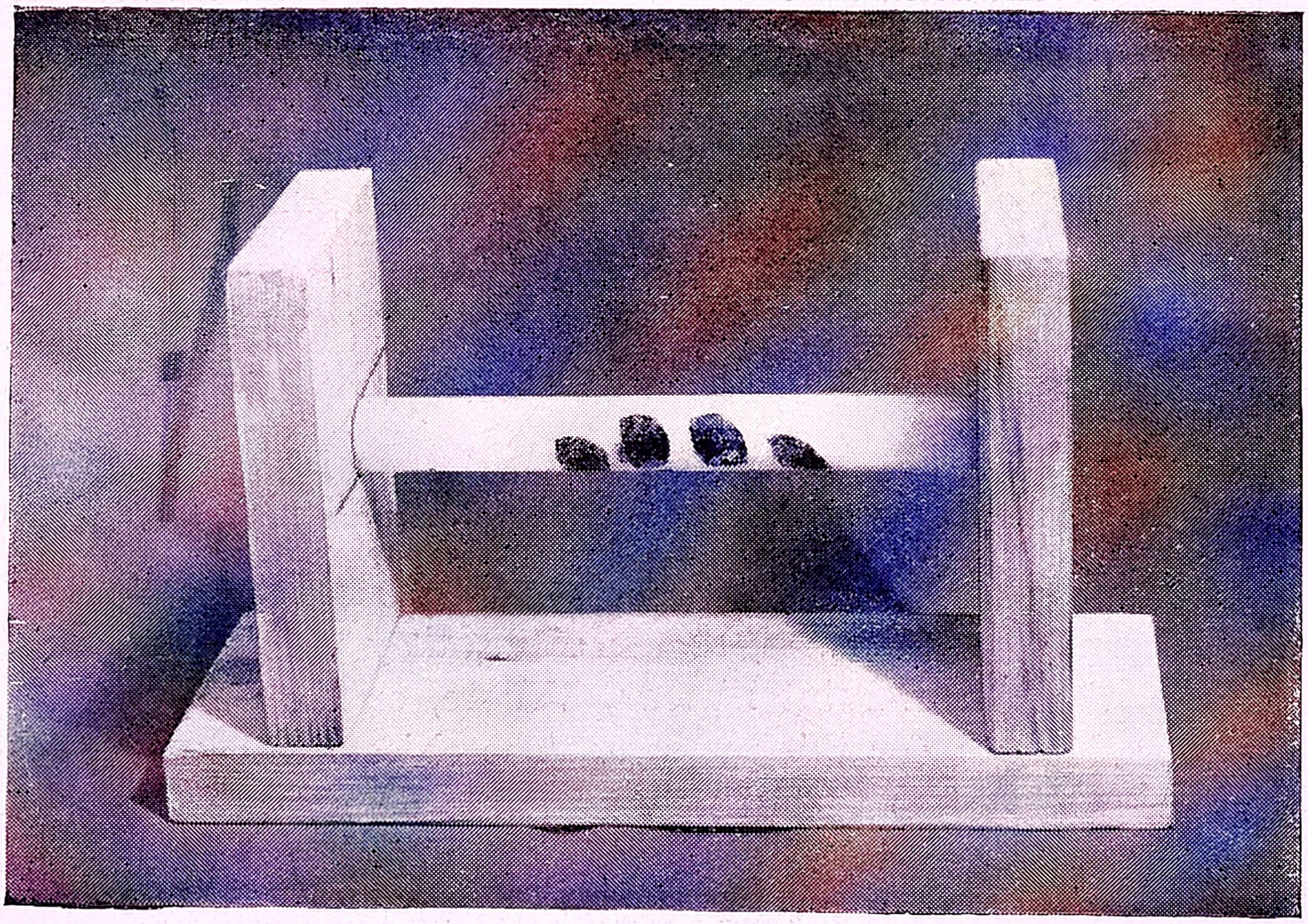


Fig. 7.
Method of packing a candle.

Tumbler.

Take two square pieces of wood with sides longer than the diameter of the tumbler. In one, cut a hole the size of the base of the tumbler and in the other cut a hole the size of its mouth (top). Attach a thin piece of wood across the outer side of each opening to prevent the tumbler passing through. Place the base of the tumbler in one cavity and its top in the other. While in this position screw (not nail) the two pieces of wood to a base board, which may then be screwed to the inside base of a wooden box. Vide Fig. 8 below.

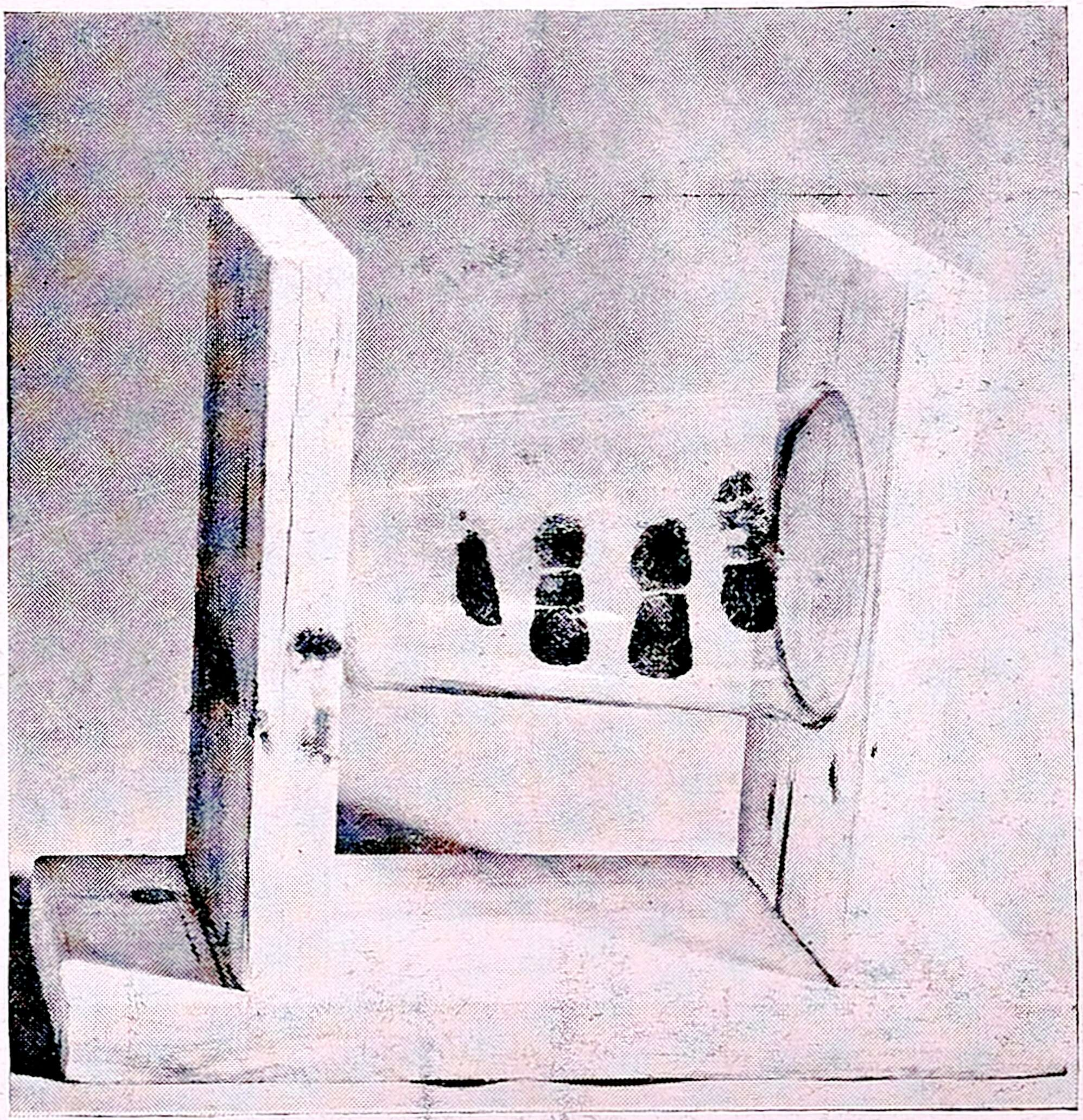


Fig. 8.
Method of packing a tumbler.

Bottle.

Take two square pieces of wood with sides about three inches longer than the diameter of the bottle and about three-quarters of an inch thick. Cut a hole in one of these pieces of wood the size and shape of the bottom of the bottle. Fasten a thin piece of wood across the outer side of the opening to prevent the bottle passing through. Place the bottom of the bottle in the hole cut and fasten the other piece of wood to a cork in the neck of the bottle by means of a screw through its centre. While the bottle is in this position screw (not nail) the two pieces of wood to a base board which may then be screwed to the inside base of a wooden box. Vide Fig. 9 below.

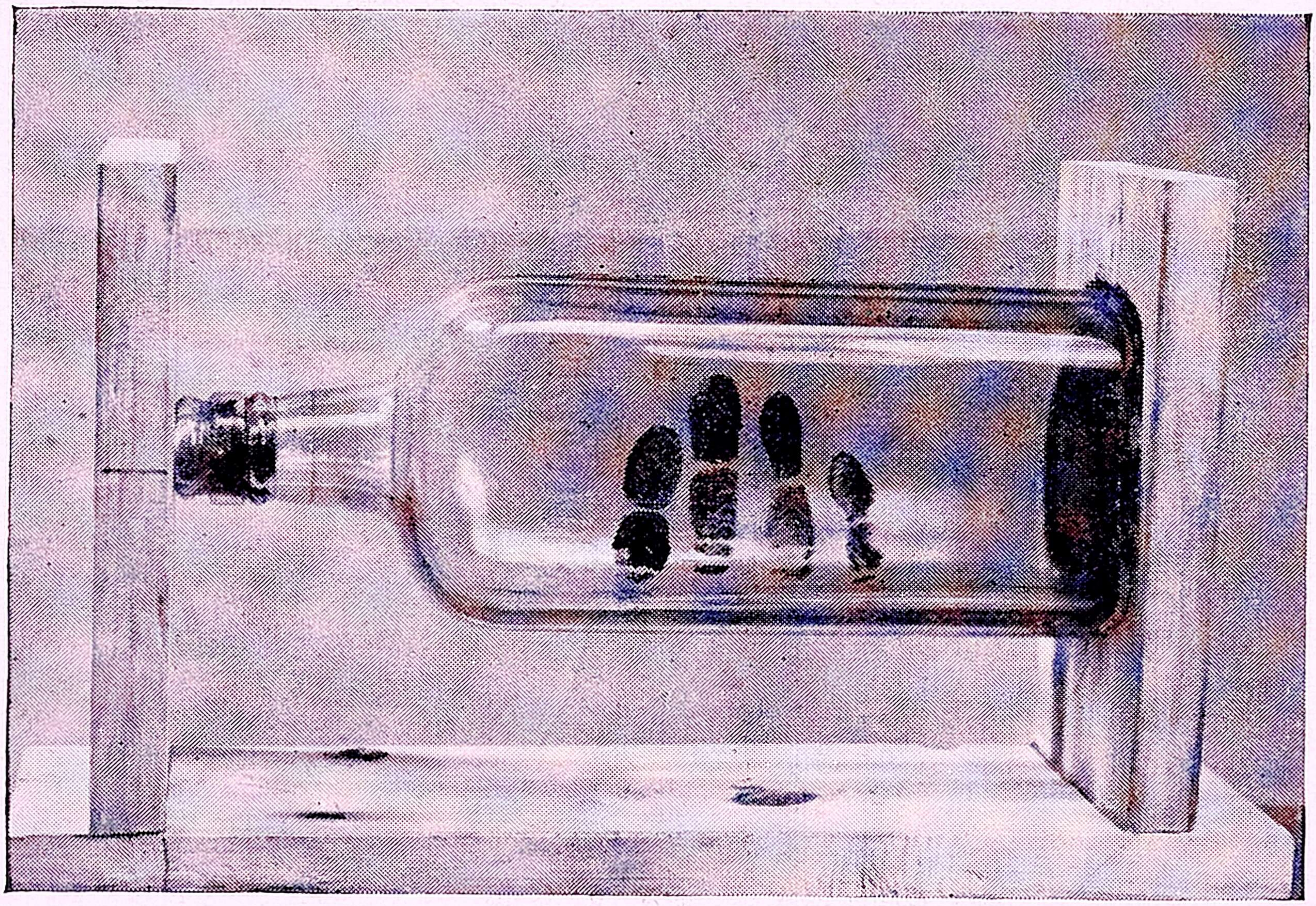


Fig. 9.
Method of packing a bottle.

Wine glass.

Take a piece of wood about six inches square and about half an inch thick, and cut a hole large enough to take a piece of wire on either side and about an inch from the base of the glass, when placed on the wood. Wind a piece of wire round the stem of the glass (not too tightly) pass the ends through these holes and twist them together underneath. The piece of wood may then be screwed (not nailed) on to the inside base of a wooden box. Vide Fig. 10 below.

Fig. 10.
Method of packing a wine glass.

Knife.

Take two pieces of wood about 6 inches by 2¼ inches and about an inch thick. In one make a saw cut about three inches deep sufficiently wide to take that part of the handle near the ferrule. Place the knife in the position shown and screw in the clamping screws which should be driven through the jaws in which the knife is placed, until it is firmly held. Then screw (not nail) the two pieces of wood to a base board, which may be screwed in turn to the inside base of a wooden box.

This method of packing will also protect any finger impressions which may be on the knife handle. Vide Fig. 11 below.

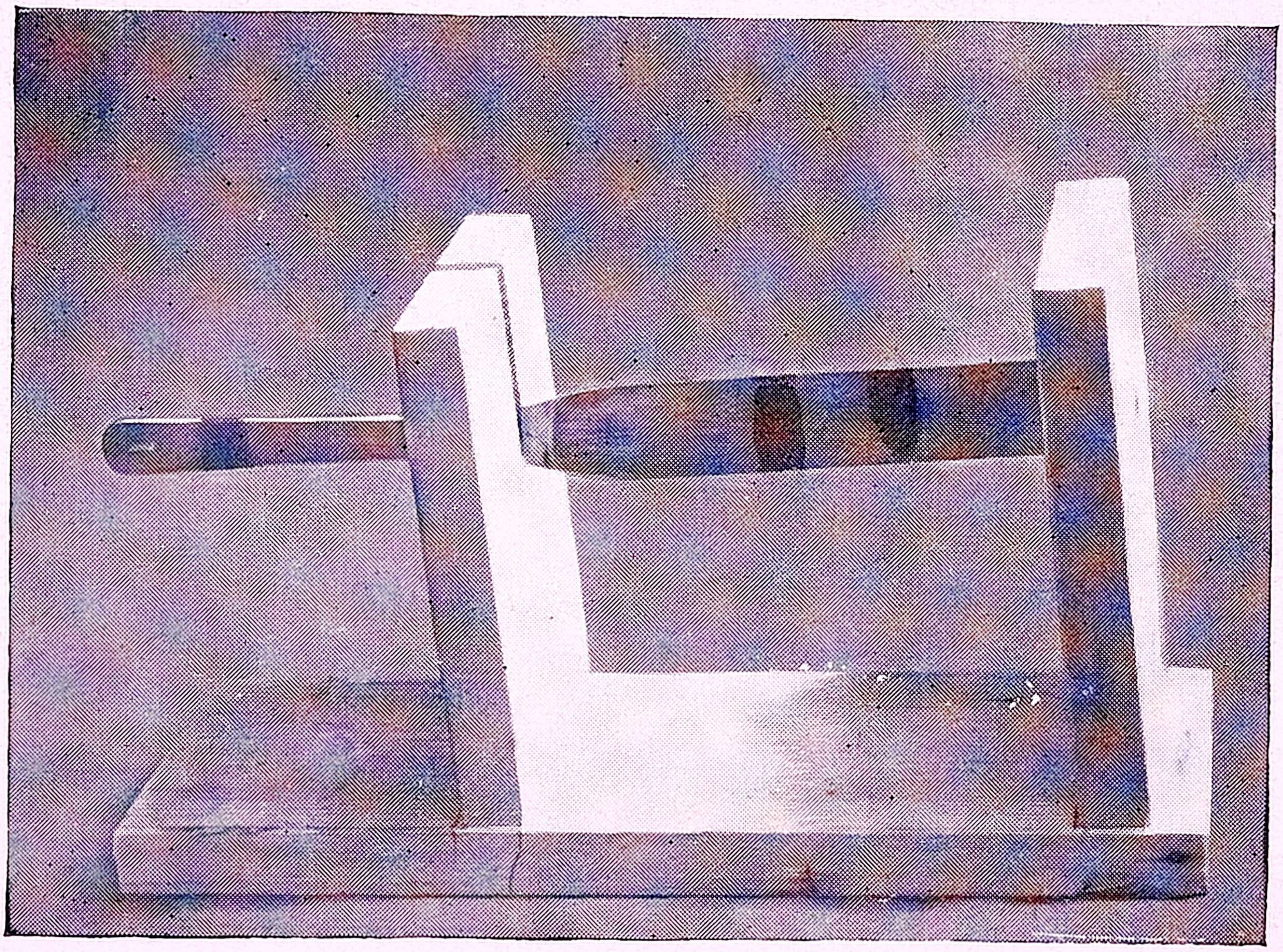


Fig. 11.
Method of packing a knife.

Piece of glass.

Take a piece of wood or stout hard board a little larger than the piece of glass. Pierce suitable holes and anchor the glass by means of string tied underneath as in the diagram. Pieces of cork slotted and screwed as shown will protect any finger-prints which may be on the undersurface of the glass. The wood or hard board may then be screwed to the inside base of a wooden box. Vide Fig. 12 below.

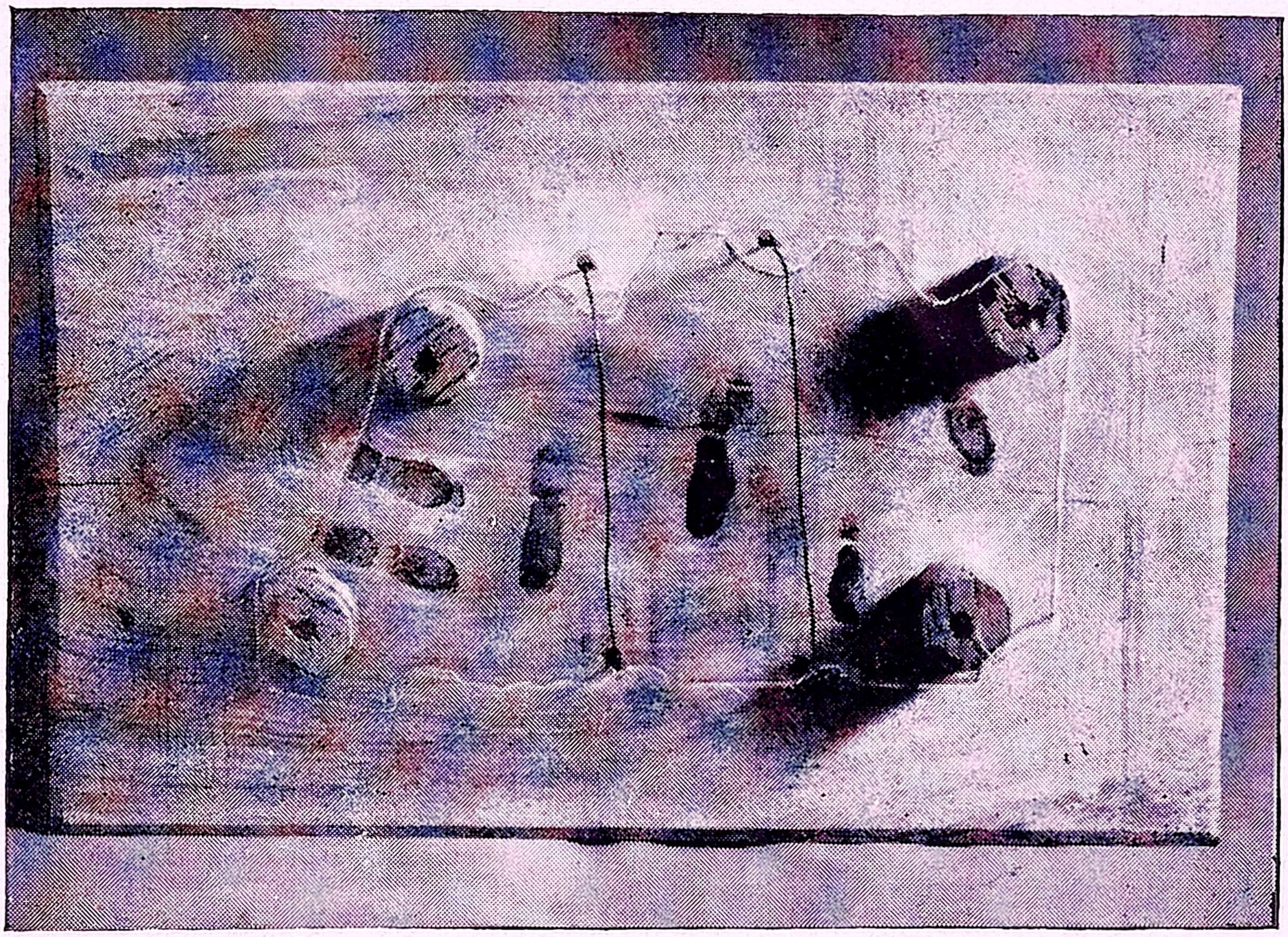


Fig. 12.
Method of packing a glass plate.

Electric light bulb.

Take a square piece of wood rather larger than the diameter of the bulb and at the centre screw on a lamp holder. The piece of wood should then be screwed (not nailed) to the inside base of a wooden box and the bulb placed in position. If the bulb fits loosely in its socket the latter should be tightened. Vide Fig. 13 below.

Fig. 13.

Method of packing a bulb.

Preservation of finger-prints.

In regard to the preservation of scene of crime finger-prints, the general rule is to photograph them directly wherever possible or immediately after development, and ensure that clear photographs are available. Where sometimes finger-prints are situated at points where it is not possible to photograph them, or where the objects themselves are immovable and cannot be kept apart and preserved, resort may be had to the use of foils. This is simply a special type of adhesive tape called Dactyloscopic Foil or Folien which may be stuck on to a surface over the developed finger-print. On peeling off the tape, the developed finger-print adheres to the tape in its entirety and the tape to which the finger-print pattern is thus transferred is preserved. The following hints in regard to photographing of finger-prints at the scene of crime will be useful.

It is important that the photograph should show the ridges not the furrows, as dark lines on a light coloured background and that the image should be in the correct position and not with the ridge direction reversed by lateral inversion.

With a view to enabling any person, who may be called upon to give an opinion regarding the identity of a finger-print when only a photograph is available, to be quite satisfied that the photograph is true in respect of ridge direction, it is recommended that a letter 'P' be inscribed or pasted near the print and photographed with it. Should this letter appear in the photograph laterally inverted it would indicate that the ridge direction has been similarly changed.

All photographs of finger-prints should be of natural size. This will necessitate the use of a camera possessing a bellows extension of twice the focal length of the lens used, that is to say, should a lens of 10 inches focal length be used, the distance between the lens diaphragm and the focussing screen must be 20 inches.

Arrangement of camera and object (piece of glass).

The arrangement adopted for photographing finger-prints on a piece of clear glass is described below. It is realized that

in photographing finger-prints outside a photo studio it may often be impossible to reproduce the same conditions in respect of both apparatus and lighting.

The glass with the finger-print to be photographed is placed between the jaws of a small vice, which can slide up or down a stand, comprised of a metal rod mounted vertically on a heavy base that keeps it steady. A thumb screw is fitted so that the vice can be fixed to the rod at any height. The print is illuminated by two lamps. A box about 18 inches deep and 6 inches square in cross-section lined with black velvet, is placed on its side with the open end immediately behind the finger mark. The rays of light from the lamps are not permitted to reach the far end of the interior of the box, thus ensuring a dead black background. The lights (one on each side of the lens) are arranged in such positions that the ridge lines when focussed on the screen of the camera will appear light on a dark ground. This being the reverse of a finger-print taken with ink on white paper, which is dark on a light ground, a second plate has to be made from the first by contact in the manner in which one would make a lantern plate. The printing is done from the second plate. The first plate when placed in the dark slide before it is exposed is reversed, that is to say, the film emulsion side is turned away from the lens. If this is not done, when a print is taken from the second plate there will be lateral inversion in the finished print, e.g., 'P' will appear as 'q'. Conversely, if the side of the glass on which the finger impression appears is turned away from the lens when being photographed, the first plate should not be reversed in the dark slide.

Knives.

Finger-prints on blades of knives or on plated goods are photographed in a similar manner but the velvet lined box is not needed. The lighting is sometimes difficult, since the article must be placed and lighted in such a way that the impression will appear on the camera focussing screen light on a dark ground. A little patience will be rewarded and the desired result obtained.

Bottles and tumblers.

Finger-prints on glass bottles and tumblers may be photographed by the preceding method, but when necessary the bottle should be filled with a black fluid to obtain the necessary contrast.

Tumblers can be filled with a similar liquid when the marks are on the outside of the glass, but, as a rule, better results are obtained by placing a piece of dead black paper in contact with the whole of the inside surface of the vessel with the exception of that part covered by the finger-print. Another sheet of this paper prevents light entering the top.

The convexity of bottles is sometimes the cause of reflections appearing over a part of the area covered by a finger-print This may be avoided by altering the position of the lights.

Corrugated glass.

When finger-prints are found on the smooth side of corrugated glass, light reflections may be avoided by filling the uneven surface with black printing ink or black paint.

Candles.

The ridges of fingers when impressed heavily on a candle create furrows similar in pattern to those of the ridges. Before being photographed such imprints are treated in the following manner:—

The impression is covered with printing ink, superfluous ink being afterwards removed with a piece of soft rag until only that in the furrows remains. This is a similar process to that adopted by printers when preparing an engraved name plate for press. Another method is to apply charcoal powder with a brush, taking care to work the powder well into the furrows. The surface should then be gently rubbed with cotton wool to remove the extraneous powder. This will be found more effective than ink where the digit has been only lightly impressed or where the furrows created are extremely shallow. Such impressions are then photographer in the ordinary manner.

Folien and Dactyloscopic Foil.

In photographing impressions transferred by "Folien" the same method is adopted as described for photographing marks on glass, the printing being done from the second plate; with "Dactylescopic Foil" used in conjunction with black powder one plate only is necessary.

When it is intended to photograph impressions to be sent to the Bureau, care should be taken to include in the photograph any blurred mark or fragmentary impression which might assist in the determination of the digit by which the impression was made and so facilitate the search for the impression in the Single Finger Print collection. See, for ex ample, Fig. 14 where it is apparent from the position of the impressions that the high and clear impression (on the left) is that of a right middle finger and search for that impression could be confined to the collection of right middle finger impressions on record.

Fig. 14.

Determination of the digit-impressions of the right hand, the tallest being the middle finger, and the shortest the little finger.

Plates and Developer.

Slow plates and a developer likely to produce maximum contrasts should be used. It is not possible to give any definite information concerning the exposure to be given as so many factors have to be considered. It may be mentioned, however, that when photographing a faint, unpowdered mark, of natural size, illuminated by two 200-candle power lamps with ordinary plates and F. 22 stop, an exposure of, from three to five minutes, is given.

It is not suggested that these hints cover the whole field of this interesting subject. Each case must be dealt with as occasion requires. It is thought, however, that the technique explained for the special treatment of certain cases will prove useful to those already possessing a good knowledge of photography who may be called upon to photograph finger-prints found at the scene of a crime.

How a scene of crime finger-print is identified.

Let us suppose we have successfully discovered, developed, and preserved a finger-print at a scene of crime. How can we use this vital clue in the detection of the crime ? The very first step obviously is to assure ourselves that it is not the finger-print of any inmate, servant or visitor to the house. So the first step is to collect the finger-prints of all the inmates, servants and others who are likely to have handled the object carrying the finger-print and send them all together to the Finger-Print Bureau or Single Digit Bureau. This elimination at the earliest steps will enable the expert to take up the search in earnest in the record of the Bureau.

Let us suppose the scene of crime print is that of the criminal. We will examine all the possibilities that open out in the utilisation of this print for the detection of crime with reference to specific examples we have seen in Madras City.

How the Single Digit Bureau helps to identify the scene of crime finger-prints.

On 30th October 1957 at 7 a.m. there was a call for the Expert of the Single Digit Bureau. At the scene of crime, a house in Nallanna Mudali street, Royapettah Police Station, which was burgled the previous night, a finger-print was developed on a metal spittoon. It was a beautiful print, and immediately on return to the Bureau, the expert was able to locate an identical print in the Single Digit collection. At 11-45 a.m. the same day Royapettah Police Station was intimated by a phone message that the burglary was the work of K.D. 575 Gopal. The Sub-Inspector, Royapettah had not even returned to the station from the scene of crime. Now if this finger-print was not found at the scene of crime, just stop to consider what an enormous amount of time and effort this crime would have demanded of the Detective Sub-Inspector, Royapettah and perhaps all that effort might have been in vain. Can any one deny what an easy, what a quick, what a spectacular detection this was. Yet the whole gain may have been lost by delay in going to the scene, or by failure to locate and develop the finger-print on the spittoon.

There was again the recent case in Saidapet. From the scene of a day house-breaking on 16th September 1958 in Nandanam Colony, the Detective Sub-Inspector picked up a kerosene lamp carrying finger-prints on its glass chimney, and sent it carefully to the Single Digit Bureau. On 17th September 1958 when the photograph of the developed finger-print was ready, it was readily located from the Single Digit collection as that of K.D. 27 Natesa Gramani. A list of day house-breakings and house thefts which had occurred in the City since his last release from jail was prepared, with reference to his sphere of operation and modus operandi; he was arrested on 13th October 1958 and admitted 20 of the offences so listed out. This case illustrates how valuable is an analysis and a study of the crime incidence and of a criminal's history sheet, used in conjunction with the identification of a scene of crime finger-print.

Let us take the case where you get a scene of crime finger-print but you do not have the concerned criminal's finger-prints on record in the Single Digit Bureau. This is what happened in the burglary in a prominent cloth shop in Mount Road, on the night of 30th September 1956. A scene of crime print was got and could not be located with finger-prints on record in the Single Digit Bureau. It was added to what is called the " Scene of crime collection "—a collection of scene of crime finger-prints which have not been identified. Wherever any important criminal is arrested or comes to notice in the City in any case, his finger-prints are got checked with the scene of crime collection. On 11th March 1958 the finger-print slip so got of K.D. 3100 Subramaniam was found to tally with the finger-print in the Mount Road shop. On 14th March 1958 the finger-prints of Subramaniam were found to tally with the finger-print in the burglary on 14th January 1958 night in a cloth shop on Poonamalle High Road. The two cases showed features common to a number of shop burglaries in the City which had occurred in the out of view period of this K.D. since 1956. All these cases were listed out, and sure enough, when he was arrested, he admitted 16 of them, 3 of them grave crimes. This brings out an important lesson to all Police Officers. Whenever we arrest a criminal with house-breaking or house theft convictions or suspected to be actively committing such crimes we must refer the criminal's finger-prints for a cross check with the scene of crime collection. Thus even if a scene of crime print is not located immediately in the records of the Bureau, its continuance in the scene of crime collection will continue to offer hopes of detection sooner or later, even if the case itself be referred as undetectable in the meantime.

We may pause to consider a similar case with a slight variation. Scene of crime finger-prints were got in a day burglary on 8th June 1956 in Tiruvengadasamy street, Annamalaipuram, and again in another similar day burglary on 16th February 1957 in 15, Manikeswari Road, Kilpauk. Neither was located in the single digit collection and so were added to the scene of crime collection. A periodical *inter se* comparison is made of the finger-prints on the scene of crime collection and such a

comparison disclosed the prints in the above two scenes of crime were identical—thereby pointing to a common offender. On 10th May 1958 the finger-print slip of K.D. 2849 Mannar alias Parthasarathy was received in the Single Digit Bureau from the Divisional Detective Sub-Inspector, Southern Range, for cross check with the scene of crime collection. When comparison was taken up his finger-prints were found identical with the scene of crime finger-prints in the Annamalaipuram and Kilpauk cases. Neither the Detective Sub-Inspector, Mylapore, nor the Detective Sub-Inspector, Kilpauk, would have ever guessed that these two cases had any connection nor would they have expected that these long forgotten cases of 1956 and 1957 would suddenly be detected without any further effort on their part after the closing of these two cases as undetectable. This again demonstrates to us how scene of crime finger-prints which are not located can even tell us which cases are inter-connected. With a little intelligent study, the investigation officer can even anticipate this and seek confirmation from the scene of crime finger-prints.

We may now consider how the Finger Print Bureau, Vellore, helps us in the identification of scene of crime finger-prints. Let us again take practical examples. During 1957 and 1958, Madras City was plagued with a series of bungalow burglaries and thefts, and though finger-prints were developed in some of the scenes of crime, these finger-prints could not be located with reference to the recorded finger-prints in the Single Digit Bureau. Photographs of the scene of crime prints were sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, for search. Now, as stated before, if we send a finger-print slip with the prints of all the 10 fingers, the Finger Print Bureau can locate an identical set of finger-prints, if on their records, within half an hour, but if we send them only a single finger's print, it is almost impossible for them to trace a corresponding finger-print in their record, because they will have to scrutinise practically every slip on record. If however along with the finger-print got from the scene of crime, or its photograph we provide the Finger-Print Bureau, with the finger-print serial number of all the probable criminals who might be responsible for the crime the Finger-Print Bureau will be readily able to pick out the slips

of these criminals from their record and immediately say whether the scene of crime print tallies with the finger-prints of any of them. The more comprehensive the list we furnish the greater the chances of detection.

Now in the bungalow burglaries of Madras City photographs of 3 scenes of crime finger-prints, were sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, along with a list of about 600 probable M.O. offenders with their finger-print serial numbers. We got a reply from the Finger-Print Bureau within two weeks that the finger-prints of the listed M.O. Criminals did not tally with the scenes of crime finger-prints and this meant none of them were responsible for this series of crimes. Let us stop to consider what this means. It is just the same thing as saying that 600 M.O. criminals were checked with a definite finding within two weeks time that none of them are responsible. Now can any investigating officer or team of Investigating Officers complete a conclusive physical check of the complicity of 600 criminals within the space of two weeks? In practical experience we know what is done. The Investigating officer checks a few M.O. criminals and is unable to check a few more who are out of view and there his investigation ends. Now which Investigating officer would like to deny himself this first rate method of checking the complicity of M.O. criminals which involves no labour except that required (*a*) to trace a finger-print at the scene of crime and (*b*) to make a comprehensive list of M.O. criminals and (*c*) to refer both to the Finger-print Bureau for cross check. The Investigating officer saves so much of time, labour and effort and yet guarantees certain results for himself.

Now the Finger-Print Bureau in the above cases checked the slips of the 600 criminals cheerfully and would have gladly checked the slips of more criminals, had more been suggested. As a matter of fact when it became apparent that none of the known M.O. criminals known to the Madras City Record Section were responsible for the cases, a study of station records had to be made to pick up the names of criminals, other than those operating under the particular M.O. of the bungalow burglaries. On 8th September 1958 a further list of criminals

who had come to notice in Mylapore Station since 1947 in house-breakings and house thefts of other categories was prepared. While their finger-print serial numbers were being collected to be furnished to the Finger-Print Bureau to be checked with the scene of crime prints already sent to them, one of them, ex-convict Krishnan of Velacheri, was arrested on 15th September 1958. This Krishnan promptly admitted the entire series of bungalow burglaries. If Krishnan had not been caught, but the finger-print serial numbers had been sent to the Finger-Print Bureau it is obvious that the finger-prints of Krishnan would have been identified in the Finger-Print Bureau with the scene of crime prints, and all the cases would in any case have been detected. In another instance, the scene of crime print got in a bungalow theft on 10th November 1958 night in Adyar was referred to the Finger-Print Bureau for check with the finger-print of 413 Probable criminals whose Finger-Print Bureau serial numbers were furnished. On 27th November 1958 the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, intimated us that the scene of Crime finger-print was that of ex-convict Sannah of Alandur whose name was one of the 413 suggested.

Palm prints and foot impressions.

The skin surface of the palm of the hands and the soles of the feet present similar ridge characteristics as in the case of the fingers and the impressions of the palm or sole are obtained on suitable surfaces, just as in the case of finger-prints. The ridge characteristics of the sole or palm prints furnish as conclusive proof of identity as finger-prints, and hence it is absolutely necessary to make a search for these at scenes of crime. The methods of development and preservation are just the same. In regard to establishing identity however as the Finger-Print Bureau does not keep a record of palm and foot-prints of criminals on record, the investigating officer must take and send to the Finger-Print Bureau palm prints and foot prints of suspects for comparison with the scene of crime print, if it is suspected to be a palm or foot print. The Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, and the Single Digit Bureau, Madras, have to their credit the detection of several cases, through identification of palm and foot prints at scenes of crime.

How the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, helps to trace wanted offenders.

There is one more matter in which the Finger-Print Bureau can help a police officer. If an offender whose identity is known, and whose finger prints are on record in the Bureau, is absconding and wanted in a case, we can ask the Finger-Print Bureau on a report in Form 145 as per Police Standing Order 850 to tell us immediately if his finger-prints are received for search from any other police station where he may have been arrested. The Finger-Print Bureau keeps a red slip on the finger prints of such persons in their main collection, so that the fact that they are wanted is not lost sight of.

The Law on Finger-print Evidence.

One more important aspect of the subject of finger-print remains to be touched upon. What is the law on the taking of finger-prints, and on the using of finger-prints in evidence in a Court of Law? The taking of finger-prints of an individual is sanctioned by the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920. The Act enables an officer in charge of a Police station to take the finger-prints of—

(*a*) any person arrested for or convicted in an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for one year or upwards;

(*b*) any persons convicted in an offence liable to enhanced punishment on a subsequent punishment; and

(*c*) any person ordered to give security for good behaviour under section 118, Criminal Procedure Code.

It is to be noted that we can legally finger-print any person only if he is under arrest or convicted, and not when he is neither arrested nor convicted. It should also be noted that the Act provides for the taking of finger prints by force when such persons resist, and such resistance is punishable under section 186, Indian Penal Code.

According to section 9 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, when the identity of an individual is in issue, facts which establish identity are relevant—hence finger-prints are relevant as

evidence of identity. Section 73 of the Evidence Act permits the comparison of the finger-prints suspected to be that of an individual, with the finger prints actually obtained from that individual, and Courts are authorized to obtain finger-prints from the individual concerned for purposes of comparison. And finally the opinions of finger-print experts on identity established through the medium of finger-prints (also palm prints according to a High Court ruling) are relevant as per Section 45 of the Evidence Act.

The law thus gives every facility to the Police Officer investigating a case to collect finger-print evidence and let in such evidence in Court. But the Law breaker does not easily give in. Let us take the case of Ganesa Iyer, a sub-postmater in Mahipalampatti, in Ramanathapuram district. One day he put his own thumb-impression as that of the payee on a money order and pocketed the money meant for one Maruthappa Konar of the village. When Maruthappa Konar complained that he did not receive the money order, the Police investigated, identified the thumb-impression on the money order with the thumb-impression taken from Ganesa Iyer, and charge-sheeted the case. The Assistant Sessions Judge, Devakottai, upheld the plea of the accused that—

(*a*) in taking his finger-prints for comparison the police had made him give evidence against himself and thus violated Article 20 (3) of the Constitution which guaranteed that no man shall be compelled to be a witness against himself; and

(*b*) that the finger-print evidence was not corroborated by other evidence. Ganesa Iyer was acquitted. However on appeal in the High Court (Criminal Appeal No. 164 of 1956, dated 5th February 1957) Justice Ramaswamy reversed the findings of the lower Court and held that the taking of finger-prints of an accused did not amount to compelling to give evidence against himself, and also that finger-print evidence did not require corroboration. This view has also been taken by Justice Somasundaram of the Madras High Court in Criminal Appeal No. 552 of 1955, dated 3rd February 1956, Sheaik Mohammed Hussain *v.* State.

A colossal amount of help can be got from finger-prints right from the time of the reporting of a crime till its disposal in a Court of law. We have seen wide variety of specific instances in Madras City of scene of crime prints leading to the detection of cases—in one case within four hours of the report of a crime, and in other cases more than a year after the case was referred as undetectable. We have seen the immense potentialities the Finger Print Bureau offers for a volume and a speed of effective checking of Modus Operandi criminals, which no police officer can individually do. We have finally seen how no other evidence is necessary apart from finger-prints, to convict an offender in a Court of Law. Every Police Officer will thus clearly recognise that the scene of crime finger-print is easily the best aid to the investigation of crime.

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ANNEXURE I.

EXTRACTS FROM POLICE STANDING ORDERS, VOLUME I.

FINGER-PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

Finger-print Bureaux.

836. (1) In each State there is a Finger-Print Bureau in which the finger-prints of criminals are kept on record. Bureaux have been established at the following places:—

Within the Indian Union.

Assam	Shillong.
West Bengal	Calcutta.
Bihar	Patna.
Bombay	Poona.
Bombay City	Bombay.
Bombay (Gujarat region) ..	Ahmedabad.
Madhya Pradesh	Nagpur.
Madhya Bharat	Indore.
Madras	Vellore.
Hyderabad (Deccan)	Hyderabad.
Mysore	Bangalore.
Orissa	Cuttack.
Rajasthan	Ajmer.
East Punjab	Phillaur.
Kerala	Trivandrum.
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad.

Outside the Indian Union.

Burma	Insein.
Ceylon	Colombo.
Malayan Union	Kualalampur.
Pakistan	Karachi.

ADDRESS OF MADRAS BUREAU.

(2) References to the Bureau at Madras should be addressed to—

"The Superintendent,
Finger-Print Bureau,
Vellore (North Arcot)."

FINGER-PRINTS—DEFINITIONS.

(3) (*a*) "Finger-Prints" include prints of the thumb and are either 'rolled' or 'plain'.

Rolled Print.

(*b*) A 'rolled' print is obtained by placing the inked thumb or finger on the paper so that the plane of the nail is at right angles to the plane of the paper. The thumb or finger should then be pressed lightly on the paper and turned over so that the bulb surface which originally faced, say, to the left, faces to the right, the plane of the nail being again at right angles to the paper.

Plain Print.

(*c*) A 'plain' print is obtained by lightly pressing the inked bulb of thumb or finger upon the paper without any turning movement.

Unidentified.

(*d*) Unidentified means a person whose residence and antecedents are not known.

Untraced.

(*e*) 'Untraced' means a person against whom no previous convictions have been traced.

Proficient.

(*f*) 'Proficient' means an officer who has been declared by a Superintendent of Police or in the City of Madras by the Commissioner of Police to be qualified to take clear and well-rolled impressions.

Expert.

(*g*) 'Expert' means an officer who has been declared by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and Criminal Investigation Department, Madras, to be competent to examine, classify and give an expert opinion on finger-impressions.

(*h*) 'Bureau' means a Finger-Print Bureau.

(*i*) 'Foot-print Expert' means an officer, not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector of Police, who has been declared by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and C.I.D., Madras, to be competent to take, examine, and identify foot-print impressions and to give expert opinion on foot-print impressions.

Method of taking finger-prints—Appliances.

(4) (*a*) The appliances required for taking finger-prints comprise a glass slab, an India rubber roller and a pot of printer's ink. These must be kept scrupulously clean and free from dust, grit and hairs. The slab should be freshly cleaned before use each day, all particles of old ink being rubbed off. The roller, when not in use, should be kept wrapped up in a piece of clean oiled paper. Both slab and roller should periodically be cleaned with soap, benzine or kerosene. The pot of ink should be kept tightly closed when not in use.

Preparation of Appliances.

(*b*) The slab must be perfectly smooth and should be wiped free of dust before use. A small quantity of the ink should then be put on the slab with the point of a knife and the roller used to bring it down to the finest possible film so that the glass is dimly visible through the ink. Experience has shown that it is easier to start with a very small quantity of ink and to increase it as necessary. If too much ink has been put on the slab a sheet of paper laid on it and rolled over with the roller will generally reduce it sufficiently. If the ink is dry and thick, it will be found that with a little perseverance it can be worked up smooth on the slab.

Inking the fingers.

(*c*) The fingers of the subject should be rubbed clean and dry, as the slightest perspiration on the finger will cause blotches and blur the print. Only the inner portion of the upper phalanges of the fingers should be inked. To take a 'rolled' impression, place the finger on the inked slab, the plane of the nail being at right angles to the slab, and turn over till the bulb surface which originally faced to the left, now faces to the right. For a 'plain' impression, place the ridge surface of the finger flat upon the inked slab.

Taking impressions.

(*d*) Prints should invariably be taken on the authorized Finger-Print Slip (Form No. 141). In the slip, space has been provided for the 'rolled' prints of all the ten digits as well as for the 'plain' prints of the four fingers of each hand. The headings of the slip are self-explanatory.

Slips to be folded for taking 'rolled' prints.

(*e*) For convenience in taking 'rolled' prints, the slip should be folded at the line indicated and the fold placed in line with the edge of the table.

Order of taking prints.

(*f*) The 'rolled' prints of the right hand should be taken first, each finger being inked and impressed before the next finger in rotation is inked. When the 'rolled' prints of the right hand have been taken, the operator should take the 'plain' prints of the four fingers of that hand simultaneously in the space provided for them on the slip. When the right hand has been finished, the operator should proceed to take the prints 'rolled' and 'plain' of the left hand in a similar manner.

Entry of details on slips.

(*g*) When the finger-prints of both hands have been taken, the slip should be turned over and the subject's name, residence, details and convictions filled in. The subject should then sign the form or make his mark if unable to write and immediately afterwards 'plain' print of his left thumb should be taken in the space provided for the purpose.

Points to be noted in preparing slips.

(*h*) The following points should be specially noted in preparing Finger-Print Slips:—

(i) Impressions must invariably be taken with the tip of the finger pointing to the top of the form, except in the case of the 'plain' print of the left thumb on the reverse of the slip.

(ii) The 'rolled' prints should show the complete contour of the bulbs of the fingers. One delta in the case of the 'loops' and two in the case of 'Whorls' should be visible.

(iii) The 'rolled' print of each finger must be taken in the space allotted for that finger and the impression should not project beyond that space. The impression of only the upper phalanx of the finger should appear.

(iv) All names, whether of persons or places should be written legibly, all entries should be as concise as possible and convictions should be entered in chronological order.

Deformities.

(*i*) If a finger is missing or is so deformed that it is impossible to obtain an impression, the fact should be noted in ink in the space allotted for that finger by the words 'missing' or 'deformed'. In the case of double fingers the prints of both fingers should be taken, if possible, and the print of the more prominent of the two invariably. Deformities, cuts, scars and disease marks interfering with the clearness of the impressions should be fully described, and it should be stated if they are temporary

or permanent. Subjects suffering from open cuts or scars in any of the upper phalanges of the fingers should not (if this can be arranged) have the prints of such fingers taken until the cuts or scars have healed.

PERSONS WHOSE FINGER-PRINTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN.

(*j*) Finger-prints of lepers are not to be taken on any account. Persons suffering from contagious and infectious diseases should not have their finger-prints taken until completely recovered.

FINGER-PRINTS—BY WHOM TO BE TAKEN.

(*k*) Finger impressions shall be taken only by officers declared by a Superintendent or in the City of Madras, by the Commissioner of Police, to be qualified to take clear and well-rolled impressions.

PERSONS WHOSE FINGER-PRINTS ARE TO BE TAKEN FOR RECORD.

837. The finger-prints of the following persons (juvenile, adults, males, females or eunuchs) should ordinarily be taken for permanent record:—

(1) All persons convicted of offences under Chapters XII and XVII, Indian Penal Code, which are punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term of one year or more.

(2) All persons convicted of any offence under Chapter VI, Indian Penal Code, or of sabotage and subversive activities against the State.

(3) All persons convicted of offences under sections 170, 302 and 304 (murder for gain), sections 328, 338, 465 to 477-A and 489-A to 489-D, Indian Penal Code.

(4) All persons convicted under the Arms, Opium and State Excise Act who are suspected to be smugglers in arms, opium or dangerous drugs as defined in the Dangerous Drugs Act (Act II of 1930) or entailing enhanced punishment on re-conviction.

(5) All persons convicted of smuggling gold, currency and valuable articles under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act VII of 1947.

(6) All persons ordered to execute bonds under sections 109 and 110, Criminal Procedure Code (for offences against property only).

(7) All traffickers in women and children who are convicted under sections 363 to 373, Indian Penal Code.

(8) All persons convicted under section 5 of the Act LXXIV of 1950, for unlawful possession of telegraph wires.

(9) All persons convicted under section 3 of Ordinance XIX of 1944 for unlawful possession of Railways Stores.

(10) All professional criminals and persons of dangerous character externed from any area under any State Act.

(11) All foreigners externed under Foreigners Act XXXI of 1946.

(12) All approvers in gang, dacoity and criminal conspiracy cases.

(13) All persons suspected of being professional itinerant criminals and persons of notoriously criminal reputation who habitually absent themselves from their homes and are believed to travel to other States for the purpose of committing crime and who have been arrested by Police and whose finger-prints have been taken even if they are acquitted, provided, that in case of acquittal permission for record for finger-prints is obtained from the Court under section 7 of the Act XXXIII of 1920.

(14) All persons convicted for attempt or abetment (section 511 or section 109|114, Indian Penal Code) and criminal conspiracy (section 120-B, Indian Penal Code) for offences mentioned in this schedule.

(15) All Indian nationals convicted outside India of any offence for which finger-prints have been received at the State Bureau from those countries.

(16) All international criminals and absconders whose finger-prints are sent to the State Bureau from countries outside India.

(17) All persons convicted under Explosive Substances Act VI of 1923).

(18) All persons convicted under the Official Secrets Act (Act XIX of 1923).

(19) All persons convicted under sections 101, 126 and 128 of the Indian Railways Act (Act IX of 1890).

(20) Any other persons whose finger-prints are ordered to be maintained zy the Government of India from time to time, subject to the provisions of the Identification of Prisoners Act (Act XXXIII of 1920).

NOTE.—The taking of finger-prints of persons who are locals and convicted of offences of trivial nature will be subject to the discretion of the Superintendent of Police of the district concerned.

Procedure regarding finger-print slips to be sent for record by Station-house Officers.

838. (1) Station-house Officers are responsible for taking the finger-prints of persons, who, on conviction have to be finger-printed under the previous order. Three sets of finger-prints shall be taken on the arrest of the accused person and the name and other particulars filled in, immediately after recording the prints. In the case of finger-prints of females 'Female' should be written on the front page top of the form in bold letters. One set will be sent for search and the other two sets will be sent for record in the event of a conviction. The Station-house Officer will, at the time of arrest, fill up the description of the arrested person in Form No. 141, sign on the first page and send one set for search to the Finger-Print Bureau, as contemplated in Police Standing Order No. 839 (1). If the person charged is convicted, all the particulars of the conviction should be filled in and if the convict has previous convictions, all particulars of his previous and present convictions in the chronological order with their Finger-Print Bureau serial numbers shall be entered in the second and third sets of finger-print slips and forwarded to the District Intelligence Bureau together with the conviction memorandum (Form No. 140). A bold note 'reconvicted' or 'unidentified' as the case may be should be made on the top of the Form No. 141 and the finger-print slip should be folded in accordance with the directions on the form. If the prisoner is acquitted or discharged, the Station-house Officer will file the finger-print slips taken by him along with the station copy of the Case Diary.

(2) Should the Superintendent of Police decide on Form No. 140 that the finger-prints of an accused person undergoing imprisonment in a jail are to be recorded, the conviction memorandum will be numbered and if the finger-print slip is obviously unfit for record in the Bureau, the finger-print head constable attached to the District Intelligence Bureau of the district in which the jail is situated will prepare a fresh slip, keep it in an open file and await the arrival of the Finger-Print Tester, who will proceed according to the instructions in Order No. 845 below:—

Central Finger-Print Bureau—Finger-print slips to be sent for record at the Central Finger-Print Bureau through the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore.

(3) (*a*) A Central Finger-Print Bureau has been formed by the Government of India and is located at No. 30, Gorchand Road, Calcutta. Finger-print slips of all persons convicted for the offences mentioned in P.S.O. No. 837 should be sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, and a duplicate finger-print slip for each of these should be sent for record in the Central Finger-Print Bureau. The finger-print slips intended for record in the Central Finger-Print Bureau should be sent through the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, and not direct. When sending finger-print slips for record they should be sent in duplicate, one with the conviction

memorandum for record in the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, and the other without the conviction memorandum for transmission to the Central Finger-Print Bureau at Calcutta. In the cases of persons for whom additional slips have to be recorded in other State Bureaux as per Police Standing Order No. 850 such duplicate finger-print slips as are necessary shall also be taken and sent.

(*b*) The procedure prescribed by the Government of India for sending finger-print slips to the Central Finger-Print Bureau is detailed below. The District Intelligence Bureau should scrutinize the clarity of the print and the correctness of the entries before sending the slips for record. While sending finger-print slips for record, despatch memorandum should be used filling the relevant entries in all the three foils of the form. In no cause finger-print slips of more than ten persons should be sent under a single despatch memorandum.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MADRAS FINGER-PRINT BUREAU AND DISTRICT POLICE OFFICES FOR SENDING FINGER-PRINT SLIPS TO THE CENTRAL FINGER-PRINT BUREAU.

(4) (*a*) One set of finger-print slips of all persons convicted of any offence mentioned in Police Standing Order No. 837 shall be prepared by the District Intelligence Bureau or the District Police Officer as the case may be, for record in the Central Finger-Print Bureau in addition to the number of sets required for the State Bureau.

(*b*) All the finger-print slips of convicts for recording at the Central Finger-Print Bureau shall be sent under triplicate despatch memoranda through the Madras Finger-Print Bureau.

(*c*) In cases where the Madras Finger-Print Bureau sends the finger-prints slips for record to other bureaux the Superintendent shall issue triplicate despatch memorandum along with these finger-print slips.

(*d*) The State Bureau shall see that in no case finger-print slips of more than ten convicts are sent under a single despatch memorandum.

(*e*) The State Bureau shall maintain a register to keep an account of the despatch memoranda sent by the District Intelligence Bureau, or District Police Officers. The columns of the register shall be as shown in Form No. 148-A, Police Standing Order Book, Volume III.

(*f*) The State Bureau, on receipt of the finger-print slips meant for record at the Central Finger-Print Bureau, shall examine the clarity of the finger-impressions, scrutinize the order of the impressions and entries on the slips and return to the District Office those finger-print slips that are unfit for record and for want of necessary particulars.

(*g*) The State Bureau which is to issue despatch memoranda for sending finger-print slips to the Central Finger-Print Bureau shall also maintain a register as stated in paragraph (*c*) above.

(*h*) The State Bureau shall forward only such finger-print slips that are fit for record and contain correct particulars to the Central Finger-Print Bureau.

(*i*) The State Bureau shall keep an account of the finger-print slips returned to the district office for rectification of defects.

(*j*) The State Bureau shall see that all finger-print slips returned for rectification of defects are submitted to the Central Finger-Print Bureau under fresh despatch memoranda.

(*k*) All intimation regarding absconders shall be sent by the State Bureau under a despatch memorandum along with a finger-print slip (if available) with particulars of the case in which they are wanted and the office to which the intimation of arrest is to be given (in Block letters).

(*l*) In the case of intimation regarding absconders whose spare finger-print slips are not available, the State Bureau shall send a photostat copy (actual size of the rolled impressions from the record finger-print slip of the State Bureau) under a despatch memorandum.

(*m*) The State Bureau shall see that the finger-print slips of persons convicted for the first time and the finger-print slips of persons traced by the Central Finger-Print Bureau when convicted are sent under separate despatch memoranda.

(*n*) In sending finger-print slips of the person traced by the Central Finger-Print Bureau, the formula supplied by the Central Finger-Print Bureau on the search slip shall be noted on the record finger-print slip.

(*o*) The State Bureau on receipt of duplicate despatch memoranda with classification formula from the Central Finger-Print Bureau shall file one copy at the Bureau and send the other to the District office.

(*p*) The State Bureau shall see that intimation regarding absconders is despatched to the Central Finger-Print Bureau within a week from the date of receipt.

(*q*) The State Bureau shall see that all finger-print slips meant for record at the Central Finger-Print Bureau are despatched within a week from the date of receipt.

(*r*) The State Bureau shall see that one extra copy of each of the finger-print slips of Inter-State, international 'auto' thieves, hotel thieves, poisoners, forgers of currency, cheats and coiners is taken for single-print record at the Central Finger-Print Bureau and sent to the Central Finger-Print Bureau with a short note on the *modus operandi.*

(*s*) The State Bureau shall bring to the notice of the Central Finger-Print Bureau all new features regarding the science of identification from the finger-prints observed by them and any forgery of finger-prints which they may come across.

(*t*) The State Bureau has the option to refer to the Central Finger-Print Bureau for scrutiny any case of difference of opinion arising between two State Bureaux.

(*u*) The State Bureau may seek the help of the Central Finger-Print Bureau in solving all problems relating to the science of identification from papillary ridges.

(*v*) All correspondence with the Central Finger-Print Bureau shall be addressed to the Superintendent of Police, Central Finger-Print Bureau, No. 30, Gorachand Road, Calcutta.

Duties of the District Police and Search references.

839 (1) The finger-prints of all unidentified persons who are arrested as suspects or are under-trial on a criminal charge will be taken on Form No. 141 by the station-house officer and submitted to the Bureau at Vellore for search in Form No. 142. In such cases, the search slip should contain full details of the circumstances under which the suspect has come into the hands of the police and also information regarding convictions with the Bureau serial numbers, if known. The Superintendent of the Bureau will return the slip duly filled in for file with the foil in the station.

(2) For this purpose every person in custody whose residence and antecedents are not known or have not been fully ascertained during police investigation, or of persons who, though known, have been out of view for some time, will be considered to be 'unidentified'.

Note.—Resistance to or refusal to allow the taking of finger-prints is an offence under section 186 of the Indian Penal Code read with section (*c*) of the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 (Act XXXIII of 1920).

Action after conviction.

840 (1) If the person is convicted, the counterfoil should be returned to the Bureau with the finger-print slip for record,

Submission of finger-print slips to the Bureau of State of arrest as well as to the Bureau of Home State.

(2) (*a*) When an unidentified person is or is reasonably suspected to be, a resident of or has wandered to another State in India or is suspected to have extended his operation to another State, reference should be made by the station-house officer with copies of his finger-print slips in the manner prescribed, direct to the Bureau of the State of which he is a native or of the States where his operations are believed to extend as well as to the Bureau at Vellore.

(*b*) When sending the finger-print slips of an under-trial prisoner or suspect for search the names of the Bureaux to which copies of the finger-print slips have been sent for search should be noted on each slip.

Method of proving previous convictions in traced cases.

(3) If on the return of the search slip from the Bureau it is found that previous convictions have been traced against the accused, steps should be taken to prove such previous convictions when necessary, under section 511, Criminal Procedure Code, which requires—

(*a*) that a certified copy of the previous conviction should be filed;

and

(*b*) that the identity of the accused should be proved.

Proof of last conviction will generally suffice.

(4) In the case of a person who has been previously convicted more than once, it will generally suffice to prove the last conviction only, provided that the former convictions were proved in that case and are mentioned in the judgment.

Method of proving identity of accused.

(5) The identity of the accused should ordinarily be proved by the evidence of a Police Officer who is cognizant of the previous conviction or by a jail officer who can recognize the accused as the prisoner who underwent the previous sentence of imprisonment, but if such witnesses to identity cannot be obtained, identity may be proved under sections 45 and 73 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (Act I of 1872) as amended by Act V of 1899, by means of expert evidence, for which purpose the record slip must be obtained from the Bureau by which the accused was traced and the services of an 'expert' requisitioned from the Vellore Bureau.

Finger-prints of adolescents sent to a special institution.

841. The finger-prints of an adolescent sent to a special institution should be sent for record to the Bureau of the State of which he is a resident and a copy kept in the Bureau of the State in which he is convicted.

Finger-prints of persons convicted in one State who are relieved to have had their origin in another State.

842. The finger-prints of persons convicted in one State who are believed to have had their origin in another State though not actually identified as residents thereof, shall be taken in duplicate and sent to the Bureau of the State in which they are convicted as well as to the Bureau of the State of suspected origin.

Persons who are likely to pass quickly out of custody.

843. In the case of persons sentenced to whipping, fine or imprisonment in the sub-jail only, the Station-house Officer will proceed as directed in Order No. 838 above. If the Superintendent or subject to his general supervision the Subdivisional Police Officer decides that it is unnecessary to send the finger-prints for record, the slip will be destroyed. If he decides to the contrary, he will forward the finger-print slips direct to the Bureau at Vellore for record and return the conviction memorandum to the Station-house Officer. Such finger-print slips and memoranda will be numbered and placed on the file but will not be submitted to the Tester.

Transfer to another jail.

844. If a convict is transferred from one District Jail to another jail before the arrival of the Tester, the Superintendent will forward the finger-print slip and conviction memorandum to the Superintendent of the district to which the prisoner has been transferred where it will be placed with the other slips of the district awaiting test. In districts where there are no District or Central Jails, the finger-print slips and conviction memoranda will be sent to the Superintendent of the nearest district in which there is such a jail. Such slips will, after test, be returned to the Superintendent of the district of conviction for transmission to the Madras Bureau at Vellore.

Responsibility of Tester.

845. (1) On the arrival in a district of the Tester, the files containing the conviction memorandum and finger-print slips will be handed over to him and he will proceed to test the slips at the jail, and to complete all details which are required by the Bureau. In making the test, the

Tester will prepare for each prisoner a slip in Form No. 143 and will satisfy himself that the prints have been properly taken on the original finger-print slips and that they are those of the convict named in the slip, that all the particulars recorded in the slip are correct, that all convictions are properly and correctly entered and that the required number of copies have been taken. Any mistakes should be brought to the notice of the Superintendent. Finger-print slips on which the impressions are blurred or indistinct should be rejected and should be replaced by fresh slips prepared by the Tester; but where the finger-print slips prepared by the Station-house Officers are sufficiently clear, those slips should be sent to the Bureau for record.

(2) After having tested the slips, the Tester will note the word 'tested' with his initials and date, (1) against the prisoners' names in the jail admission registers, (2) in the D.I.B. Finger-Print Register, (3) on the back of the conviction slips and (4) on the history tickets.

(3) The Tester is responsible for the correctness of the convictions and all other details entered by him or the Station-house Officer on the reverse of the slip. He will sign each slip that he has tested and his signature will be held to show that he has verified the sentence, previous convictions and personal details of the convict from the Judicial and jail records.

Disposal of finger-print slips and conviction memoranda.

846. (1) Finger-print slips and conviction memoranda after being tested will be made over by the Tester to the Superintendent who will send the slips to the Madras Bureau provided that the time of appeal is over or the appeal (if any) has been decided.

(2) All finger-print slips sent for record in the Bureau shall be accompanied by their relative conviction memorandum. The Bureau will return the conviction memorandum duly signed by the Superintendent with the Finger-Print Bureau serial number noted against the heading provided for the purpose. On receipt of the conviction memorandum from the Finger-Print Bureau, the Superintendent will send it for file to the Station-house Officer who will enter the Bureau serial number in the concerned station records. In subsequent references to the Bureau, this serial number shall invariably be quoted.

Slips of convicts remaining unidentified to be distinguished.

847. In the case of convicts who remain unidentified the word 'unidentified' will be written in red ink on the top of the reverse side of the finger-print slip before it is sent to the Bureau. In the case of re-convicted persons whose finger-prints are known or believed to be already

on record the slip will be endorsed in a similar manner with the word 'reconvicted' in order that it may attract special notice in the Bureau.

NUMBER OF COPIES OF SLIPS REQUIRED FOR RECORD.

848. The number of finger-print slips required for record is as follows:—

(1) Of ordinary convicts convicted in their own State, one copy will be taken for record in the Bureau of the State of conviction.

(2) Of all convicts—

(*a*) who are wanderers, unidentified or whose operations are known to extend beyond the limits of their own State, or

(*b*) who, though themselves residents of the State of conviction, are really foreigners and are thus likely to have relations with criminals of other States, or

(*c*) who have been notified under the Madras Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act, 1948, or are known or believed to be connected with organized gangs in other States, or

(*d*) who have been convicted of theft of firearms and ammunition or under the Arms, Opium or Dangerous Drugs Acts in circumstances which render it likely that they are illicit dealers in Arms, Opium or Cocaine, or

(*e*) who have been convicted under section 328, Indian Penal Code, if the offence was of a professional type, or under sections 231 to 253, Indian Penal Code and sections 489-A to 489-D as many copies will be taken as are required for record in (*a*) the local Bureau, (*b*) the Bureaux of the States of which the convicts are alleged to be residents and (*c*) the Bureaux of the States where their operations are known to have extended.

(3) Of foreigners convicted of an offence of the type in which finger-prints would ordinarily be taken for record under the rules ,the finger-prints and photographs should be taken in duplicate and sent by the Superintendent of the district in which the case was registered, for record in the local Bureau and for transmission to the Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, through the Criminal Investigation Department.

ESCAPE TO BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE BUREAU.

849. When a prisoner escapes from police or jail custody and his finger-prints have been taken previous to his escape, the finger-print slip, whether it would otherwise be forwarded to the Bureau or not under the rules, should be forwarded to the Bureau at once, with particulars of the

circumstances of the escape, so that it may be placed on the record. When the slip has already been forwarded, it will be necessary to inform the Bureau of the escape in order that the slip may be suitably marked in accordance with Order No. 850 below.

Action on finger-printed ex-convicts absconding.

850 (1) If any person whose finger-print slip has been sent for record is subsequently declared as a proclaimed offender, or escapes from jail or police custody, or absconds after committing some offence, or is an out-of-view Dossier Criminal, the Station-house Officer will send immediately information to the Superintendent of Police in Form No. 145 for transmission to the Madras Bureau.

(2) On receipt of the report referred to in clause (1) above a red slip will be attached to the slip so that immediate information may be given to the Police by whom the absconder is wanted in the event of the absconder's finger-prints being subsequently traced. In such cases, a copy of the red slip together with the absconder's classification number will be sen by the Bureau receiving the report to the other Bureau in which the absconder's finger-prints are on record.

Report of deaths.

851. If a convict whose finger-prints have been taken dies in jail, the District Superintendent, if the deceased was convicted in his district, will forward a death report in Form No. 146 to Madras Bureau. Should such convict die in jail after transfer, the District Superintendent of district in which the jail is situated will forward the death report to the Superintendent of the district in which the deceased was convicted, who will forward the same to the Madras Bureau. Should a convict die after release from jail, the Station-house Officer will forward the death report to the Madras Bureau through the Superintendent.

The Bureau classification.

852. (1) All classification and arrangement of slips will be done in accordance with the instructions contained in Henry's Finger-Print Manual.

Punctual disposal of search slips.

(2) All slips received for search will be returned within 24 hours of receipt, if possible.

Distribution of slips by Bureau of State of conviction.

(3) All copies of slips taken for record are submitted to the Bureau of the State in which the conviction is obtained, and that Bureau will

forward the copies intended for the Home and other Bureaux, noting on each copy the names of the other Bureaux in which the slip is on record.

SLIPS RECEIVED FOR RECORD TO BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED.

(4) Every slip received for record will be carefully scrutinized before being classified, checked and recorded and if found deficient in any respect, will be returned with an objection slip (Form No. 147) attached for the submission of amended or fresh slip.

REMOVAL OF SLIPS ON RECEIPT OF DEATH REPORTS.

853. The slips of persons reported to have died in jail will be removed from the record and destroyed at once. In cases of the reported death of persons, the date of death report will be marked in red ink across the slip which will remain in the record for another two years when it will be removed and destroyed.

PERIODICAL ELIMINATION OF FINGER-PRINT SLIPS.

854. (1) All slips will be examined annually and in the absence of any special reasons to the contrary, those enumerated below will be withdrawn from record:—

(*a*) In the case of a person who is a professional prisoner, note-forger, coiner, arms smuggler, or a habitual offender—notified under the Madras Registration of Habitual Offenders Act, 1948, on his attaining the age of 80 years or on his death whichever is earlier;

(*b*) in the case of a person who was a registered member of a notified tribe at the time of the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924, if he had been convicted for any property offence or for any offence under section 24 of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924, or had been bound over under section 109 or 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code and has not subsequent to his conviction or last conviction, as the case may be, been suspected or convicted, on the expiry of 15 years from the date of his release or last release from jail, as the case may be; and

(*c*) in the case of any other person—

(i) if he has not more than two convictions in his native district (not having been convicted outside his native district) and has not subsequent to his conviction or last conviction, as the case may be, been suspected of crime or convicted, on the expiry of ten years from the date of his release or last release from jail, as the case may be, or

(ii) if he has been convicted outside his native district or has more than two convictions in his native district and has not subsequent to his conviction or last conviction, as the case may be, been suspected of crime or convicted on the expiry of fifteen years from the date of his release or last release from jail, as the case may be;

(iii) on his attaining the age of 80 years, or

(iv) on his death;

whichever is earliest.

(2) To prevent the possibility of the wrongful destruction of any finger-print slip in the Bureau, slips withdrawn from record will be sent to the Superintendent concerned for information and destruction. The Superintendent of Police will pass them on to the Subdivisional Police Officer concerned for necessary action. If the Subdivisional Officer has any objection the destruction of any particular slip, he should return it to the Bureau through the District Police Office explaining fully why he wants it to be retained.

(3) The destruction of slips of finger-prints which are on record in other Bureaux will be intimated to those Bureaux by the Madras Bureau.

Private parties applying for the services of a Finger-Print Expert.

855. The Government have ordered that in civil or criminal cases, where private parties apply for the service of an expert in finger-prints, a fee of Rs. 50 a day in the case of the Superintendent and Rs. 25 a day in the case of an expert of the Bureau, in addition to all expenses, shall be demanded. In civil cases, prepayment of the fee into court deposit should be required. In all cases, the fee when paid shall be credited to Government. (G.Os. No. 924, Judicial, dated 6th June 1961, No. 718, Judicial, dated 3rd May 1905 and No. 440, Home, dated 10th October 1941.)

ANNEXURE II.

FORMS USED IN CONNEXION WITH FINGER-PRINT WORK.

FORM 140.—Conviction Memorandum Form—Prescribed in Order No. 838—Police Standing Orders, Volume I—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM 141.—Finger-Print Slip—Prescribed in Order No. 838—Police Standing Orders, Volume I—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM 142.—Finger-Print Search Slip—Prescribed in Order No. 838—Police Standing Orders, Volume I—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM 145.—Report to the Finger-Print Bureau of persons wanted—Prescribed in Order No. 850—Police Standing Orders, Volume I.—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM 146.—Death report of a convict whose finger-print slip is on record in the Bureau—Prescribed in Order No. 851—Police Standing Orders, Volume I—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM 147.—Finger-print objection memorandum—Prescribed in Order No. 852—Police Standing Orders, Volume I—Specimen given in Police Standing Orders, Volume III.

FORM No. 140. ORDER No. 838.

1. Name

2. Father's name

3. Crime number and section

4. Date of despatch

FORM No. 140. ORDER No. 838.

Conviction Memo.

1. Name and aliases.
2. Father's name.
3. Caste and trade.
4. Age (General description and physical peculiarities)
5. Residence. Police Station. District.
6. Relatives with addresses.
7. Associates with addresses.
8. Present conviction:—
   - (*a*) Station, Crime number and section.
   - (*b*) M.O. details.
   - (*c*) Date and place of occurrence.
   - (*d*) Name and address of the complainant.
   - (*e*) Details of arrest.
   - (*f*) Property lost and recovered with details of disposal.
   - (*g*) Court C.C. No. date and sentence. Police officers to prove conviction.
9. Details of previous convictions:—
10. Whether likely to commit crime outside station limits ?
11. Whether to be shadowed on release ?

Inspector. Station-House Officer.

Commissioner's / Superintendent's order Retain / Destroy finger-prints P.R.S. The man's convict number is of Jail. Finger-print taken on at

Signature of Finger-Print Officer at Jail,

Pol.—Old No. B-127, New No. B-110-184.

MADRAS POLICE

FORM No. 141. ORDER No. 838.

C.T.R. No. with district initials and Tribe.

Bureau Serial No.

Full name with *aliases*. ____________________

Father's or Husband's name with *aliases*. ____________________

Caste ____________ Religion ____________

Native Village ____________ Native district ____________

Police Station ____________________

State ____________ Age ________ Years.

Prisoner's Signature (or mark, if unable to write)

Finger Print Slip.

Classification No.

FOLD (3) FOLD (3)

Right Hand.

Right Thumb.	Right Index.	Right Middle.	Right Ring.	Right Little.
(Fold.)				(Fold.)

FOLD (2) FOLD (2)

Left Hand.

Left Thumb.	Left Index.	Left Middle.	Left Ring.	Left Little.
(Fold.)				(Fold.)

FOLD (1) FOLD (1)

LEFT HAND.	Plain impressions of thumbs taken simultaneously.		RIGHT HAND.
Plain impression of the four fingers taken simultaneously.	Left.	Right.	Plain impressions of the four fingers taken simultaneously.

C.T.R.

I certify that the above prints were taken by me and that they are the prints of the convict named above.

Signature and designation ____________________

Slip prepared on ________ by ________ Rank ________ District ________

Slip tested on ________ by ________ Rank ________ District ________

Classified at Bureau by ________ Date ________

Tested do ________ Date ________

Convictions. Old Pol. B-127, New Pol. B-110.

No.	Name under which convicted.	Court and district.	Cal. No. and date.	Section.	Sentence.	Jail and Jail Admission number.	Police station and crime number.	Number and names of identifying Police Officer.
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Place——————— *Signature*———————

Date——————— *Rank of Office*———————

Reconvicted / Unidentified } Slip previously sent for search. Counter-foils of search slip is attached. { No.—of—C.I.D / Gang No.—

FORM NO. 142. ORDER NO. 839.

FINGER-PRINT SEARCH SLIP.

(To be retained by the officer submitting the slip.)

No.

Name given by accused

Date of despatch of slip

F.P.B. to which

Old No. Pol. B. 128, New 111.

FORM NO. 142.

ORDER NO. 839.

FINGER-PRINT SEARCH SLIP.

Form to be submitted with Finger-Print slip of unidentified person.

(To be filled in by the officer submitting the slip.)

No. , dated 196 .

District.

Name given by accused

Father's name village

Police Station District

Date of taking the impressions

Date of despatch of slips

Section under which sent up

Name (in full) of the officer taking the impressions

Date of expiry of remand

Address to which slip should be returned

Remarks, if any

Name and official designation in full of the officer submitting the slip.

(To be returned with the Finger-Print slip for record if the person is convicted.)

No.————————of 196 .

S.R.

(To be filled up in the Bureau.)

To

The

His. No. , dated 196 .

Name given by accused

Father's name

Date of receipt of slip

Traced (particulars to be given on the other side) or untraced

Remarks, if any

(1) Where previous convictions have been outside your district you should intimate the facts of this arrest to the District Intelligence Bureau or District Superintendent of Police concerned.

MADRAS,

196 . *Manager, Finger-Print Bureau.*

Old. No. Pol. B. 128, New 111.

FORM No. 142.

Old No. Pol. B. 128, New 111.

PARTICULARS OF THE PERSON, IF TRACED.

Name under which traced

Son of ,

Caste

Village

Police Station ,

District

Convictions :—

References should now be made to the district where convicted to prove identity and previous convictions and the results reported as soon as the case is disposed of. If witnesses to prove identity are not forthcoming, services of an expert should be applied for and the previous convictions proved under the amendments to sections 45 and 73, Indian Evidence Act of 1872, contained in Act V of 1899.

Manager, Finger-Print Bureau, Madras.

FORM No. 142. [PRICE, *pice.*

SEARCH SLIP.

(To be filled up in the Bureau.)

Name under which traced

Son of

Pigeon hole No.

Date of the receipt of slip

Date of reply

Remarks, if any

Classified by

Checked by

Searched by

Date 196 .

Manager, Finger-Print Bureau.

FORM 146 Order No. 851.

DEATH REPORT OF A CONVICT WHOSE FINGER-PRINT SLIP IS ON RECORD IN THE BUREAU.

1. Name.
2. Father's Name.
3. Residence.
4. Detail of last Conviction.
5. Date of death.
6. Jail No.
7. Date of despatch to Finger-Print Bureau

FORM 146 ORDER No. 851

DEATH REPORT OF A CONVICT WHOSE FINGER-PRINT SLIP IS ON RECORD IN THE BUREAU.

1. Name.
2. Father's Name.
3. Residence [1] Village.
   [2] Police Station.
   [3] District.
4. Last Conviction [1] Court.
   [2] Date and C.C. No.
   [3] Section.
   [4] Sentence.
5. Death [1] Place.
   [2] Date.
   [3] By whom reported.
6. Jail number.
7. Finger-Print Classification.

DISTRICT }
STATION } [Signature]

[Designation]

Form No. 145.

INTIMATION TO THE FINGER-PRINT BUREAU OF PERSONS WANTED.

(Police Standing Order No. 850, Vol. I)

I. Name of the person wanted with aliases.

II. F.P.B.S. No. or if not available, date of despatch of F.P. Slip by the D.P.O. to the Bureau for record.

III. Father's name.

IV. If registered—

(*a*) Under the C. T. Act.

Tribe.

C. T. No. & District.

(*b*) In C.I.D. Gang.

Personal No.

Gang No.

V. Number of convictions.

VI. Particulars of last conviction.

Name under which convicted.

Court.

Date of sentence.

Case number.

Sentence.

Jail and Jail number.

VII. Why wanted.

VIII. To whom intimation should be sent when traced.

Submitted to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore.

Inspector of Police, Record Section,
Madras City.

C. No. / O.V./61

Madras Finger-Print Bureau
at Vellore,

Dated,

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Received report from the Inspector of Police, Record Section, Crime Branch, Madras City, recording K.D.H.S.

and intimation will be sent when traced.

Superintendent (Director ex-Officio)
Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, North Arcot district.

To

The Inspector of Police, Record Section, Madras City.

FORM 147

Order No. 852.

FINGER-PRINT OBJECTION MEMORANDUM.

No.

MADRAS FINGER-PRINT BUREAU,
VELLORE, N.A.

196 .

To

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE,

____

Returns herewith the finger-print slip of the prisoner —H.O. named below, forwarded with his No.________ for reasons noted as points________________

____

(Space for prisoner's name.)

Requests that the same be resubmitted without delay after necessary action has been taken.

N.B.—In the case of objections under points 1 to 10 fresh finger-print slips of the convicts should be prepared rectifying the defects.

1. The rolled impressions are so faint and blurred that no sub-classification is possible.

2. The rolled/plain impressions of the right hand fingers are taken at the place of the left hand fingers and vice versa.

3. The rolled impressions of the right/left hand fingers are repeated at the place allotted for the left/right hand fingers.

4. The rolled impressions of the right/left hand fingers are taken in the reverse order commencing with the little finger-print at the place allotted for the thumb print.

5. The rolled impression of the________________ finger has been omitted to be taken.

6. The rolled impression of the ________________ finger has been repeated in the place of the ________ finger.

7. The impression of the left thumb has not been taken at the right top corner of the slip.

8. The impression of the right thumb has been taken at the right top corner of the slip.

9. The impressions of the________________ fingers have not been fully rolled.

No.

____

________________________196 .

To

The Superintendent,
Madras Finger-Print Bureau,
Vellore, North Arcot.

10. The plain impressions have not been taken simultaneously.

11. The name, father's name and place of the convict's residence have not been duly noted.

12. The age of the convict has not been furnished.

13. The convictions noted on the slip are incomplete and wanting in the following particulars :—

(*a*) Name under which the convict was sentenced.

(*b*) Name of the headquarter station of the convicting Magistrate or court.

(*c*) Calendar number and date of sentence.

(*d*) Section of law under which convicted.

(*e*) Sentence, substantive or in default of payment of fine.

(*f*) Whether fine amount was paid.

(*g*) Name of Jail and Jail admission number.

(*h*) Crime number and name of the Police station.

(*i*) Numbers and names of Police Officers to prove the conviction.

14. In the case of convicts released after executing the bond, the following particulars are not furnished :—

(*a*) Amount of bond.

(*b*) Period of bond.

(*c*) Number and amount of sureties.

(*d*) Section under which released.

(*e*) Whether sureties were furnished.

15. The previous convictions have not been entered though section 75, I.P.C., has been applied to the present conviction.

16. The Officer preparing the slip has not signed his name.

17. The Officer who entered the conviction on the slip has not signed his name

18. The date on which the slip was prepared has not been noted.

19. The slip has been submitted before the time for appeal is over.

20. The result of appeal has not been furnished on the

21. The result of appeal noted on the slip is incomplete and wanting in the following particulars :—

(*a*) Appeal No.

(*b*) Date of disposal of the appeal.

(*c*) Designation and headquarters of the Magistrate or Judge, who disposed of the appeal.

(*d*) Details of the appeal order.

(*e*) Whether the period of imprisonment already undergone by the accused was confirmed.

22. The entries in the slip are in the vernacular.

23. In case of H.O. Slips :—

(*a*) H.O. No. and district letters have not been noted.

(*b*) Signature of the Recording Officer is not obtained.

(*c*) Previous convictions have not been noted.

(*d*) Particulars of notification in *Fort St. George Gazette* have not been furnished.

(*e*) Form X (acknowledgment) duly filled up has not been attached.

24. (*a*) The alternate headings at the top (impression side) have not been scored out.

(*b*) Counterfoil of the search slip has not been attached.

25. The slip is received without test though the convict is still in the Jail.

26. Order to retain the slip has not been passed on the conviction memo.

27. The slip has been ordered to be destroyed.

28. The particulars of conviction have not been entered on the conviction memo.

29. Duplicate finger-print slips for transmission to the Finger-Print Bureau of other States as per P.S.O. No. 827 (2) have not been attached.

30.

Superintendent,
Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore.

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1961